

Security Council urges respect for Lebanon

LONDON (AP) — In an indirect criticism of Israel's presence in southern Lebanon, the Security Council Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to Lebanon's territorial integrity and its borders. The council's president during July, Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon of Cuba, read a statement on behalf of the 15-nation body that supported the Lebanese government's effort to extend its authority nationwide. The statement was an implicit criticism of Israel, which has occupied a "security zone" in southern Lebanon since it invaded that country in 1978. The statement was delivered as the council routinely renewed for six months the mandate of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The 5,800-member UNIFIL force was deployed in 1978 to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces and assist the Lebanese government in extending its authority. Every six months the Security Council extends UNIFIL's mandate, while noting that the Israeli presence prevents UNIFIL from fully performing its functions and violates Resolution 425 of 1978 which called for Israeli withdrawal. But a statement by the council president represented a departure from the usual renewal procedure and emphasised the importance the council places on the removal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

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Mideast peace conference set for October

Superpowers to co-host Arab-Israeli talks; Baker returns to Israel today; Bessmertnykh to follow

Historic arms accord signed

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday signed a treaty that would shrink their countries' arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons, a landmark conclusion to summit talks that focused on the Soviet Union's economic woes and the search for peace in the Middle East.

The two leaders threw a 40-year arms race into reverse gear by signing the treaty slashing their strategic nuclear arsenals by about one third.

At a half-hour signing ceremony in the Kremlin, Mr. Gorbachev declared that the treaty, which took nine years to negotiate, began the "dismantling of the infrastructure of fear that has ruled the world."

Although both sides will retain massive nuclear firepower, the 700-page pact is the first to force reductions in mankind's deadliest weapons — long-range ballistic missiles and heavy bombers.

The two leaders, ending their sixth summit, signed the pact with pens made from medium-range missiles scrapped under a separate treaty signed four years ago.

"This completes many years of effort... that required will, courage and the rejection of outdated perceptions of each other. They required trust," the Soviet leader said.

Mr. Bush also hailed the achievement, saying START "represents a major step forward for our mutual security and the cause of world peace."

START, for Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, is the third and perhaps most important East-West arms treaty in the past four years following that on medium-range missiles and one last reducing conventional forces in Europe.

The treaty, which must now go to the U.S. Senate and the Supreme Soviet for formal approval, is expected to cut U.S. strategic nuclear forces from about 12,000 to 10,000 weapons and Soviet forces from about 10,000 to 8,000.

Although the treaty signing lent a triumphant note to the two-day summit, reports of a bloody attack on a Lithuanian border post cast a shadow over the meeting.

Six Lithuanian guards were killed and two seriously wounded when their post on the border with the neighbouring Soviet Republic of Byelorussia came under attack early Wednesday morning, the Lithuanian interior ministry said (see page 8).

Even as START was signed, both sides were looking ahead to subsequent weapon reductions. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said new arms control negotiations would be held in the fall.

Mr. Bush expanded on his vision of a future arms control agenda, saying the United States supports a defensive system, under debate in the Senate, which would guard against "an errant nuclear missile" fired by renegades or extremists.

The plan, a scaled-down version of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), would deploy ground-based defence systems against a ballistic missile attack. Critics of the plan warn it would jeopardise the 1972 superpowers' Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said START contains a provision that permits either side to abandon the treaty if the other violates the ABM agreement.

Mr. Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitaly Ignatenko, said negotiations should be held to ban underground nuclear weapons

MOSCOW (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush said Wednesday the United States and the Soviet Union will co-host a Middle East peace conference in October. He said he would dispatch Secretary of State James Baker to Israel Thursday to persuade the Jewish state to join the talks.

The Soviet Union also signalled its intention to resume diplomatic relations with Israel.

Mr. Bush acknowledged that Israel had not yet accepted the U.S.-Soviet formula for direct talks with a Palestinian delegation.

"I'd say I'm a little more optimistic today," Mr. Bush said at a news conference.

Mr. Baker's sixth trip to the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war in February will centre on talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to resolve a dispute over which Palestinians would attend the peace conference.

Israel is rejecting participation by any Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem, while Palestinians insist on their right to pick their own delegates.

Arab states agreed two weeks ago to attend the peace conference.

Mr. Bush said the United States and the Soviet Union would act as co-sponsors of the conference and issue invitations 10 days prior to the meeting. He did not say where the meeting would be held. Geneva, Cairo and Washington have been mentioned as possible sites.

"This historic opportunity must not be lost," Mr. Bush said. But, he said, "peace cannot be imposed. It can only result from direct negotiations between the

parties."

Mr. Bush's dramatic announcement closed out his two-day summit with Mr. Gorbachev, signalling the superpowers' determination to move forward with a peace plan for the troubled region.

Mr. Gorbachev, sitting at Mr. Bush's side, said he and the U.S. leader had worked out a joint document on the Middle East. He heralded a "window of opportunity in order to really achieve progress" in the region.

In a sign of a potential breakthrough, Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said he would make his own trip to Israel "soon," carrying the documents to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

The Soviets had said that step would be taken only when Israel was ready to enter peace talks

with the Arabs.

Mr. Bessmertnykh, speaking at a separate summit news briefing said the date for the conference had been narrowed "to a matter of days" and would be set soon.

Israel has rejected a Baker proposal that Israel agree in principle to attend, leaving it to the United States to work out the issue

King, Assad exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and reviewed with him the latest developments in efforts to resolve the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Assad, sitting at Mr. Hussein's side, said he and the U.S. leader had worked out a joint document on the Middle East. He heralded a "window of opportunity in order to really achieve progress" in the region.

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of Palestinian representation.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Shamir spoke twice Tuesday by telephone, but there was no indication they had reached agreement.

Israel has raised other questions, as well, about Mr. Bush's formula for Israeli-Arab negotiations but these are considered surmountable provided the Palestinian issue is settled.

Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states have accepted the U.S. proposals for a conference.

Mr. Shamir has rejected Palestinian delegates from Arab Jerusalem to avoid even a suggestion of Israel willingness to negotiate its 1967 "annexation" of Arab Jerusalem.

The Bush-Gorbachev summit

(Continued on page 5)

Text of joint statement

The text of the joint U.S.-Soviet statement on the Middle East, as released by the White House, said:

"President Bush and President Gorbachev reaffirmed their strong mutual commitment to promote peace and genuine reconciliation among the Arab states, Israel and the Palestinians.

"They believe there is an historic opportunity now to launch a process that can lead to a just and enduring peace and to a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. They share the strong conviction that this historic opportunity must not be lost.

"While recognising that peace cannot be imposed and that it can only result from direct negotiations between the parties, the United States and the Soviet Union pledge to do their utmost to promote and sustain the peace-making process.

"To that end, the United States and the Soviet Union, acting as co-sponsors, will work to convene in October a peace conference designed to launch bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Invitations to the conference will be issued at least 10 days prior to the date the conference is to convene. In the interim, Secretary Baker and Minister Bessmertnykh will continue to work with the parties to prepare for the conference.

Masri urges speedier moves to hold Arab talks on peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — Regional and international circumstances are ripe to start Arab-Israeli negotiations in the framework of a peace conference which will be called by the United States and the Soviet Union, Prime Minister Taher Masri was quoted as saying in a newspaper interview Wednesday.

"There is a need to speed up the process of convening a meeting among the Arab confrontation states the coordinate their positions vis-a-vis the peace process," said Mr. Masri in an interview with Al Hayat newspaper.

The prime minister warned against Israel's moves to force Syria to separate peace talks with the Jewish state and said that Jordan considers the Palestine

issue as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and any rejection by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation will place Jordan in an "embarrassing situation in light of the regional and international political framework and in view of Jordan's close ties with the Palestine problem."

The prime minister denied the existence of any splits within his government and stressed that the Cabinet members were in total solidarity and agreement on every issue.

Mr. Masri stressed the need for a halt in Israel's settlement programme in the occupied territories. "Such settlements are bound to abort the coming peace talks

from the start," he warned.

The Arab delegation will go to the negotiations for the sole purpose of restoring all occupied Arab territories regardless of the existence of the settlements and all the traces of Israeli settlements should be removed, he said.

Mr. Masri stressed the need for peace negotiations to have a fixed agenda.

Referring to Washington's interpretation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, he said that this interpretation "is in harmony with Jordan's concept of international legitimacy."

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Taher Al Masri

no peace and stability can be achieved.

The prime minister voiced his belief that the Arab parties will agree that any Arab-Israeli deal concluded through the negotiations should not be implemented

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Israelis rampage through Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israelis in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron set Arab cars alight and stoned Palestinians after a fellow Jewish settler was stabbed and wounded on Tuesday, Israeli Radio said.

Witnesses said two Palestinians stabbed Yuval Deresh, 24, while he was walking to a synagogue through Hebron's open-air chicken market. He was wounded and taken to hospital.

He was studying and living at a Jewish seminary in Hebron. A small group of ultra-nationalist Jews live under heavy guard in the heart of Hebron.

The radio reported that late Tuesday some settlers went on a rampage in Hebron and surrounding villages under curfew. They set cars alight and stoned Arab homes.

Chief of Staff Ehud Barak said Israel's army is devising "less visible" methods to deal with a surge in gun attacks by Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The army acknowledged for the first time last month that it used undercover units to fight the Palestinian uprising.

"We are looking for ways to confront the change in the patterns of the intifada and we will have to fit our activities to this new situation that is being created," General Barak said.

"We will divert our efforts from permanent activities which repeat themselves to activities which are less visible and more flexible... with the help of intelligence," he told reporters at a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

The munitions could include shells, canisters, warheads and grenades, Mr. Ekeus said. But he added that it was difficult to tell exactly what was at the Samarra site 110 kilometres north of Baghdad, because of damage from allied bombs and dangerous

he said. The work there is especially hazardous because of unexploded ordnance dropped by the allies during the war, he said.

"Obviously there are great problems," Mr. Ekeus told reporters after briefing the Security Council. "We feel we still lack sufficient cooperation from the Iraqi side."

The weapons experts said Iraq has 46,000 field chemical munitions, compared to the 11,000 to 12,000 it had declared in accordance with the April 3 U.N. ceasefire resolution.

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Little immediate Arab response to superpowers

Combined agency dispatches

THERE WAS little immediate reaction in the Arab World Wednesday night to U.S. President George Bush's announcement of a joint U.S.-Soviet Middle East peace conference in October.

The first statement came from Foreign Minister Amr Musa of Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

"This is a big step forward which assures that all the parties have responded positively to the American initiative," Mr. Musa said.

He said the peace conference would provide the best chance to build "a just, balanced and permanent peace settlement in the Middle East."

Mr. Musa stressed that the conference should strive to make sure the Palestinian people gain their right to self-determination, and that all states should come out of it with the right to live within secure borders.

Egypt and the other Arab states bordering Israel — Syria, Jordan and Lebanon — had already accepted attending the conference. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), while agreeing that it would not be at the conference, was holding out to pick the Palestinian representatives.

A spokesman at the PLO headquarters in Tunis, said Chairman Yasser Arafat was in Morocco and the organisation would not comment until it had seen more details about the proposed conference.

Saudi Arabia has said it would attend the conference only as an observer from the six Gulf Arab states.

One senior official reached by telephone said the kingdom "automatically supports" the call

for a conference. Iran Wednesday was outspoken against the conference even before Mr. Bush made the official announcement that it would be held.

"Muslim countries will not allow the rights of the Palestinians and the rest of the Muslims of the world be overlooked," Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said in a meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

Tehran Radio quoted him as telling the minister that "unfortunately, because of the Gulf war the Arab World is not in good condition" and Iran was worried that the United States would try to exploit the situation to impose a solution.

Egypt's Musa was quoted in the Israeli daily Jerusalem Post Wednesday as saying he would try to convince the Palestinians to accept a compromise that no Arab Jerusalem delegate be present in the initial stage of negotiations.

But he said Israel would also have to agree that the lack of an Arab Jerusalem delegate in the opening talks should not be seen as a precedent for later negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories.

He told the Post in Cairo he could not ask the Palestinians to "write off the question of Jerusalem."

"They will not do that. We will not do that. But to cooperate, let us launch the process," he was quoted as saying.

In a Cairo statement, Mr. Musa called the Post report inaccurate. He said the newspaper interpreted a call for "flexibility by all parties" to mean that Arab Jerusalem Palestinians should necessarily be excluded from the peace conference.

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Reeling from Gulf crisis, Jordan needs peace to rejuvenate economy

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One year after the eruption of the Gulf crisis, Jordan stands in need of massive infusion of funds to help it restructure its economy devastated by the crisis and to cope with rising unemployment and absorption of thousands of returnees from the Gulf, according to economic analysts and government officials.

Although the immediate damage to the economy as a result of the Gulf crisis has been far less than initially feared and predicted, the long-term prospects for the economy look grim unless a comprehensive Middle East settlement can be achieved.

"Things are snowballing," said analyst Jawad Al Anani commenting on Jordan's political and economic situation.

"This country's whole future depends on the peace process."

Jordan with a population of 3.4 million and limited natural resources, is facing great demographic pressure with the return of over 250,000 expatriates from the Gulf.

The Kingdom, inexorably linked to the Palestinian conflict, also feels threatened by a potential forced migration of Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories where the occupation authorities are using increasingly harsh measures to quell the intifada.

Jordan feels compelled to support U.S. efforts to convene a peace conference although it sees the conditions as far from ideal. But if it refuses to attend, Jordan fears it will become the "dumping ground for millions of Palestinians from all over the world," Prime Minister Taher Masri warned deputies opposed to

negotiations with Israel.

Another influx of Palestinians to Jordan will upset the already delicate balance between east bank Jordanians and Palestinians further strengthening the Israeli headline argument that "Jordan is Palestine."

The Gulf crisis deprived Jordan of one quarter of its export markets one-third of expatriates' remittances, and all Arab financial assistance. But Jordan was partly compensated for those damages through foreign assistance, and oil from Iraq at concessionary prices. The Kingdom also suspended its debt service.

But Western and Japanese aid, which provided a cushion of economic security in 1990, is not expected to remain at the same level; and Gulf Arab states, once Jordan's main financial backers, are still angry with the Kingdom's reservations over the allied war against Iraq.

The large-scale damages have not happened yet," said economic columnist Dr. Fahed Al Fanek. "Jordan needs not only billions of dollars to tackle its economic and social burdens and the write-off of its debts, but also a fair share of water from the Yarmouk River. Otherwise a major crisis will hit," he warned.

More than a quarter of a million Jordanians, mostly of Palestinian origin, have fled to Jordan from Kuwait since that start of the Gulf crisis and the major burden on the economy will be the absorption of the returnees and their families, officials and analysts say.

Officials expect thousands of others to return to the country after they collect their money and settle their affairs in the emirate which has become out of bounds for most — if not all — Jordanians and Palestinians.

"Our worst fears have

materialised," says Dr. Anani. "We thought those Palestinians and Jordanians who stayed behind would stay in Kuwait and that the emirate would need their services but the opposite is happening."

Dr. Fanek estimates that if the number of returnees reaches half a million, Jordan would need a minimum of \$7.5 billion to build facilities and infrastructure in education, health, water, sewage, electricity, transportation and housing.

The building of facilities and infrastructure, especially housing, will also create new jobs. In order to keep the unemployment rate at a pre-crisis level of about 16 per cent (official estimate), economists say 100,000 new jobs must be created.

With the return of expatriates and their dependents, coupled with job losses in certain sectors hit by the Gulf crisis, the unemployment rate has

soared to 25 per cent, economists say.

"If we can convert them (returnees) into an effective and strong producing group, they will be an asset in the long-run," said a senior official. But analysts argue that the country needs funds to provide the proper incentives to this new labour force.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is also due to return to Amman next month for negotiations on austerity measures, initiated in 1989 and suspended during the Gulf crisis. Jordan needs IMF agreement in order to once again begin rescheduling its foreign debt.

Amman stopped servicing its foreign debt during the crisis, but analysts say the Jordanian economy has run out the time that the Gulf crisis bought.

A successful peace conference would lead to an improved investment climate in

the country and a regional water-sharing agreement which Jordan desperately needs.

Peace with Israel would allow the government to cut defence spending, over 30 per cent of the budget, and redirect it to development projects in the country. It could also mean a partial debt writeoff.

"If all the countries concerned attend and we did not, we would have to give up on any hope of getting our water rights which are now usurped by the Israelis," Mr. Masri warned Parliament in a closed session.

"We would face an economic embargo such as that faced by Iraq... we would starve, a total paralysis... and by pushing Palestinians from everywhere to Jordan, they will implement the slogan 'Jordan is Palestine,'" he told Parliament.

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هذه احدى الاصل

Afghan rebels show little mood for a compromise

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels show little to compromise with tentative international efforts to resolve what they see as a "holy war" against the Kabul government, diplomats and officials said Wednesday.

A two-day peace mission by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati ended Tuesday with a grudging and partial acceptance by guerrillas of a United Nations peace framework.

The Mujahedeen stood firm on their insistence there was no room for Afghan President Najibullah or members of his government in a provisional administration.

"It doesn't really take things forward much," one Western diplomat said of the meeting.

The talks were fraught with tension between two guerrilla camps, those based in Iran and those with headquarters in Pakistan, guerrilla sources said.

Chiefs of two hardline Islamic factions based in the northern Pakistani town of Peshawar did not show up. A third stormed out halfway through.

Among those absent was Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, powerful leader of the Hezbi-Islemi party, who has accused the United States of deserting the Mujahedeen cause.

"It's most distressing really. They have beaten the Soviet Union and now they are tearing each other apart," a Pakistani official said of the guerrillas.

A major source of contention is allocation of seats in the government-in-exile in Peshawar, dominated by Pakistan-based Mujahedeen, Iran-based fighters want more representation.

Pakistan and Iran, along with the United States, have been important supporters of the Mujahedeen and now back a negotiated settlement as the war drags into its 13th year.

"There is a limit to hospitality," the Pakistani official said. "The situation has reached the point of diminishing returns for Pakistan."

Mr. Velayati arrived in Pakistan Sunday, aiming to smooth over differences between the quarrelsome factions and overcome their opposition to the U.N. proposals.

A joint declaration issued at the end of the talks said the U.N. formula, a vague framework calling for a ceasefire, a provisional government and free elections, "could serve as a possible basis for a settlement."

A guerrilla commission would decide how to form a transitional government, said Sighatullah Mojaddidi, president of the Mujahedeen government-in-exile. He added that Mr. Najibullah and his party could have no part in this.

A senior Pakistan-based guerrilla official, asked if some compromise was necessary to give Mr. Najibullah an incentive, said: "That is not in our culture. I know who killed my brothers. They must relinquish power."

Pakistan and Iranian officials, and moderate Mujahedeen leaders said the fact that the Iran and Pakistan-based Mujahedeen groups sat down together and agreed on a joint declaration was an achievement in itself.

Reconciliation among the factions would take time, the guerrilla official said.

Iran was promoting the estimated 10,000 guerrillas based there as a Shiite Muslim cause, he said. Between 15,000-20,000 Pakistan-based guerrillas, mostly Sunnis, were fighting a broader crusade, he said.

The Mujahedeen see the collapse of the Najibullah regime from within as their best chance of victory.

Hardline factions, stung by the perception that they have failed to live up to expectations since Soviet troops withdrew in 1989, have already pledged an all-out military effort.

Mr. Mojaddidi said the "holy war" would not be put on hold for the U.N. plan.

Latest reports from the battlefield said the Mujahedeen were besieging the eastern city of Jalalabad.

They had attacked government units with rockets and artillery fire on the highway west of Jalalabad and were trying to surround the city, the rebel news agency Midia said.

Soviet parliamentarians asked the United States Tuesday to help find veterans of the Afghan campaign either held prisoner by rebel forces or missing in action.

Members of the Supreme Soviet's Committee on Soldiers and Internationalists handed a letter to Secretary of State James Baker asking Washington to exert its influence on Afghan guerrillas believed to be holding at least 100 servicemen.

Committee members said Mr. Baker showed interest in their cause by extending his meeting with them from 15 to 25 minutes.

The aftermath of the war in Afghanistan was one of the regional issues to be discussed at the second day of talks on Wednesday between presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush.

More than 13,000 Soviet soldiers died in the 10-year campaign to bolster Kabul's leftist government, a policy now denounced by the Soviet leadership as a colossal error and interference in Afghan internal affairs.

Parliamentarian Nikolai Engrer told reporters that Mr. Baker recognised the intentions of the committee and that the United States was prepared to sign a joint declaration on Afghanistan immediately.

But he told members there were "political forces and structures within the Soviet Union not interested in this and you must deal with it among yourselves."

Iraq complies with many U.N. demands, but problems remain

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq says it is complying with all conditions of the U.N. ceasefire resolution and is cooperating fully with U.N. teams inspecting and destroying its weapons of mass destruction.

But U.S. and U.N. officials say Iraq still has not provided full declarations about its nuclear programme and other arms declarations are suspect.

Payment of war damages, a key demand, has not begun because Iraq still is not permitted to sell oil and cannot finance a compensation fund for victims of the Kuwait invasion.

Here is a summary of U.N. demands and Iraqi compliance:

Weapons declarations

Iraq has made declarations about its chemical and ballistic weapons. It denies having any biological or nuclear weapons or programmes to develop them. It admits "peaceful" secret programmes to enrich uranium and says its declarations are complete.

But the United States, other nations and U.N. officials say they want to know more.

U.N. inspectors say they have found 46,000 chemical weapons — about four times more than the 11,000 to 12,000 weapons initially declared by Iraq. They also found 3,000 tonnes of chemicals used to make weapons — almost five times the 650 tonnes Iraq had acknowledged.

Inspection and destruction of weapons

Nuclear: After initially obstructing some teams and hiding equipment, Iraq has been cooperating with U.N. inspection teams investigating nuclear research and uranium enrichment programmes.

Chemical: One preliminary inspection has taken place at the major Muthanna site near Samarra and two new missions to other undisclosed sites are planned next month. A detailed, two-month inventory of the vast, contaminated Muthanna site is planned for September and others will follow. Destruction has not begun.

Biological: The first biological weapons inspection team will begin work this weekend and remain until Aug. 8, visiting possible undeclared sites.

Ballistic: U.N. teams have destroyed 62 ballistic missiles with a range of 150 kilometres or more, 11 decoys and 10 launchers. Everything declared in the 150-kilometre range category has been destroyed, and a mission to inspect production facilities is planned for August.

U.N. teams want to inspect a "supergun" that could launch chemical or ballistic warheads and visit a test site. Destruction has not begun.

Paying war damages

Iraq has accepted demands that it pay compensation to victims of its invasion of Kuwait and agreed that a portion of its future oil revenue will be set aside to pay claims.

A U.N. fund has been set up, but the amount of Iraq's contribution has not been decided by the Security Council. Sanctions remain in place and Iraq is not able to sell oil and satisfy claims.

Return of Kuwaiti property

The first return of property will begin Monday on the Iraq-Saudi border when the United Nations

supervises the transfer of gold, coins and banknotes. Library books, documents and museum pieces will be returned later. One remaining civilian aircraft, a light plane, will be returned soon. Kuwaiti airliners were destroyed by allied bombing.

Return of Kuwaiti prisoners

Iraq returned 6,000 people before the formal ceasefire, but Kuwait says that 3,800 identified prisoners still are being held and only 193 have been repatriated. Iraq says it wants to return prisoners but Kuwait refuses to accept them. Kuwait says it cannot verify that they are Kuwaiti citizens.

Border demarcation

A U.N. commission with Kuwaiti and Iraqi members is working on demarcating the disputed border in accordance with a 1963 Iraq-Kuwait border agreement.

Rescinding claim to Kuwait

Iraq has rescinded its annexation of Kuwait, nullified all laws relating to the occupation and stated that it has no claim on the emirate.

Renouncing terrorism

Iraq has condemned international terrorism in all forms and states that it will not permit Iraqi territory to be used by any individual terrorists or groups with terrorist ends.

Humane treatment of minorities

After post-war offensives to quell rebellions by its Kurdish and Shiite Muslim minorities, Iraq agreed under international pressure to humane treatment of its civilians as demanded in a resolution. It agreed to U.N.-run humanitarian centers for Kurdish refugees and Shiites in southern Iraq.

Iranians cash in on newfound friendship with Kuwait market

KUWAIT (R) — Traders and fishermen from Iran are cashing in on their country's new friendship with Kuwait, which even a year ago regarded the rulers in Tehran as religious fanatics bent on destabilising the Gulf region.

The seafaring Shamlan market in the centre of Kuwait City testifies to the change in Iran's relations with the emirate.

It is overflowing with melons, vegetables, fresh fish and other produce shipped in daily from Iran on dhows.

Kuwaiti customs men monitor the trade from a makeshift enclosure connected to the market by a gate. Unshaven and shabbily dressed, the Iranians push their produce through on wheelbarrows.

Kuwaiti middlemen snap up the goods for a quick profit.

The one-way trade between Iran and the emirate blossomed almost immediately after the Gulf war, which wrought havoc on Kuwait's ports and closed the airport.

Kuwaitis, badly in need of basic goods after seven months of Iraqi occupation, welcomed the Iranians with open arms.

Besides, their produce is cheap. Melons sell for about 15 cents a kilogramme and fresh fish fetches 1.5 a kilogramme.

Kuwaitis sell the goods for double the price.

"We are not making a killing selling fish here. But back in Iran the situation is really bad. A kilo

of fish sells for only 800 rials (60 cents).

"We endure sleepless nights, put up with the heat but at least return home with some profit," said fisherman Ali, 30, taking a puff from his waterpipe.

"It shows that our relations with Kuwait are good. We are cooperating in different fields," a spokesman for the Iranian embassy said.

To highlight the friendship, he pointed to the imminent arrival of a team of Iranian fire-fighters to help recap burning wells in the emirate.

Before the Gulf crisis Kuwait was off limits to Iranian traders but the Iraqi invasion on Aug. 2 changed the picture.

Iran's clerical rulers, though strictly neutral in the Gulf war, pleased Kuwait and its Gulf Arab allies by condemning the invasion.

The Sunni rulers of the Gulf states had previously seen Shiite Iran as a threat because it supported militant Islam.

The mistrust prompted Kuwait to give Iraq billions of dollars in aid during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Kuwait suspected Iran of retaliating through acts of violence. It linked Tehran with a series of bomb attacks by Shiites in the emirate in the 1980s.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, narrowly escaped assassination in 1985 by Shiite Muslims.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Pentagon expects more 'friendly fire' deaths

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department expects that current investigations will reveal that additional U.S. or allied military deaths were caused by "friendly fire" in the Gulf war, spokesman Pete Williams said Tuesday. "We have not closed the book on friendly fire," Mr. Williams told reporters. "I am told that the number will go up."

Reports to date have shown that at least 11 U.S. and nine British troops died in eight incidents involving mistaken attacks by allied forces. Fifteen U.S. and 13 British troops were wounded in those incidents. "There are some investigations under way," Mr. Williams said in response to questions at the Pentagon briefing. A British military report last week said that the nine British troops were killed in a Feb. 26 accidental attack by U.S. A-10 anti-tank aircraft, but it did not relegate blame for the incident. Prime Minister John Major has urged that the United States compensate families of the British soldiers killed when their two armoured vehicles were struck by rockets from the American jets. Legislation has been introduced in Congress to provide such compensation, but no action has been taken.

Syrian fisherman fined in N. Cyprus court

NICOSIA (R) — Six Syrian fishermen arrested after sailing into waters controlled by the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus have been fined after being convicted of illegal entry. The six, arrested four days ago, pleaded guilty before Famagusta district court Wednesday and were fined the equivalent of about \$20 each. They were allowed to leave with their boats after paying the fines.

Kuwait considering right of appeal

KUWAIT (R) — Justice Minister Ghazi Al Sammar has said the ministry was amending state security laws to give defendants in collaboration trials the right of appeal. He told Al Watan newspaper defendants would have better access to legal safeguards and the right of appeal in the state security court. The security court inherited 400 collaboration cases when martial law was lifted in June, four months after the end of the Iraqi occupation. It has not yet started hearings. Martial law courts had sentenced 29 people to hang for allegedly assisting Iraq, attracting criticism from human rights groups abroad, but the sentences were commuted to life imprisonment.

Iraq lifts curbs on foreign doctors

PARIS (R) — Iraq has lifted entry and movement restrictions on nearly 40 foreign doctors working for aid missions, an international medical charity said Tuesday. The French branch of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) said seven of its medical staff who had been waiting for visas in Jordan since the beginning of the month had been authorised to enter Iraq. Another 32 staff who had been in Iraq since last March but were not allowed to travel had been given permission to move around and stay on for three more months.

Kuwait closely split on votes for women

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis are closely split on votes for women with a thin majority opposed, according to a newspaper survey published Wednesday. Al Qabas said it questioned 305 men and 193 women and found 51.8 per cent opposed giving women the right to vote and 46.4 supported the idea. Only 1.8 per cent were undecided. The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, praised the role of women in resisting seven months of Iraqi occupation and promised to consider letting women vote in parliamentary elections scheduled for October 1992. The National Council, an advisory body, is considering the subject. It was elected before Iraq's 1990 invasion by the emirate's 500,000 adult male citizens — a tiny fraction of the population.

Indonesian foreign minister in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas arrived in Tehran Wednesday for talks on next week's meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Iranian news agency IRNA said. It quoted Mr. Alatas as saying before leaving Jakarta that Indonesia wanted to exchange views with Iran before the OIC meeting, the first to be held since the Gulf war. Mr. Alatas, who will stay in Iran for two days, would visit Syria and Jordan after the OIC meeting, which is due to open in Istanbul on Aug. 4.

Israeli flight detours to Istanbul over package

TEL AVIV (R) — A Copenhagen-bound Israeli plane diverted to Istanbul Tuesday after a passenger told cabin staff she was carrying a parcel from an Arab acquaintance, an airport source said. The source said the El Al Boeing 767 with 224 passengers was 90 minutes out of Tel Aviv when a Sweden woman told a flight attendant she had not informed airport security of the package and did not know its contents. After consultations with El Al's head office, the captain decided to land in Istanbul. The passenger identified her baggage and security officers found the gift was harmless. The flight took off 30 minutes later, but the woman stayed behind to answer questions from Turkish police.

Turkey, N. Cyprus to lift passport rule

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey took another step Tuesday towards lifting passport requirements for travellers from the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus. Turkey published in the official gazette its agreement with the breakaway republic, which is only recognised by Turkey, to drop passport requirements for Turks and Turkish Cypriots for visits of less than three months. A Turkish government official said the Turkish Cypriot government has to take similar steps to finalise procedures for implementing the agreement. The passport restriction can be lifted after an exchange of letters of approval, which the official said were expected in the next few days. Under the agreement, Turks and Turkish Cypriots will be asked only to present their identity cards when clearing customs.

Saudis, PLO deny report of Fahd letter

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have denied that King Fahd sent a letter to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat urging a compromise on Palestinian representation at a proposed Middle East peace conference.

The report was carried by Reuters based on accounts from unnamed officials of two PLO factions based in Damascus who said Mr. Arafat apparently rejected the appeal.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said late Tuesday: "The alleged letter report is fabricated... and is totally untrue. Saudi Arabia strongly regrets the publication of such an offensive report."

PLO Executive Committee member Abu Ali Mustafa told the group's news agency, Wafa, that the Reuters report was based on a letter designed to damage the PLO's credibility.

An official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine had told Reuters that Mr. Arafat revealed details of a message from King Fahd to a PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis July 15.

"King Fahd told Abu Ammar (Mr. Arafat) that you have to accept that Palestinians be included in a sub-listed delegation (with Jordan) as the only way to get the peace process going," the PFLP official said.

Asked about Mr. Arafat's response, the PFLP official said: "He spoke about Fahd's message with contempt. He said 'this is what we now get from the Arab brothers.'"

PLO support for Iraq during the Gulf war estranged the movement from some Arab leaders. The letter was said to be Mr. Arafat's first from King Fahd for several months.

Mr. Mustafa, who represents the PFLP on the Executive Committee, told Wafa in Tunis: "No PFLP official made such a statement reported by Reuters."

An official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine had also told Reuters of a letter from King Fahd, saying it was part of a "carrot and stick" approach.

"The Saudis are indirectly telling Arafat that if you agree, we will open a dialogue and perhaps resume financial support," the DFLP official said.

The SPA report, quoting an official Saudi source, said the kingdom's policy was against intervening in the affairs of others.

falling due are estimated at \$8 billion.

Mr. Ghazali said his caretaker government was drafting new legislation to allow foreign companies to take shares in oil and gas production.

Officials have said it is hoped foreign companies will help Algeria to raise the oil recovery rate from the current 20 per cent to 40 or 50 per cent in return for a share of extra output.

The total group of France and Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) of Italy have already expressed an interest in the proposal.

Mr. Ghazali said it was hoped that the Hassi Messaoud oilfield, with reserves estimated at five billion tonnes, could raise output by 20 per cent to earn Algeria an extra \$140 billion.

DFLP reelects Hawatmeh as leader

DAMASCUS (R) — The Damascus-based wing of the divided Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has reelected Nayef Hawatmeh as secretary general, it said in a statement on Wednesday.

Mr. Hawatmeh has been secretary general of the group since 1969 but his former deputy, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo, has led a breakaway Tunis-based wing with about half the membership.

The two wings are at odds mainly over the status of Jordanian members of the DFLP, most of whom support Mr. Hawatmeh, himself of Jordanian origin.

The reelection took place in the closing session of a DFLP conference in Damascus attended by about 300 delegates, the statement said.

The DFLP said the delegates represented 50,000 members inside and outside the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Tunis-based wing has elected Mr. Abed Rabbo as acting secretary general. The two wings retain the same DFLP name.

The reelection of Mr. Hawatmeh seemed likely to perpetuate the rift between him and Mr. Abed Rabbo.

The DFLP conference urged the PLO to speed up reform of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to include all parties.

In an earlier statement, the DFLP rejected U.S. proposals for Middle East peace talks because they excluded the PLO.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Snorky
18:30 Les Chevaliers de Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Family Man
21:00 Outlines
21:00 News in English
22:25 Movie of the week

PRAYER TIMES

04:17 Fajr
06:00 Sunrise
12:00 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:25 Maghrib
19:55 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 61740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 61740
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 62366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62341

Anglican Church Tel. 62583, Tel. 62843
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717351
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717251
Agman International Church Tel. 627981, 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 62824 and 654922
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 15 / 27
Aqaba 23 / 35
Deserts 17 / 32
Jordan Valley 21 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 27, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN: 65 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issa Haddad 877007
Dr. Yousef Al Faigh 657909
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 787708
Dr. Walid Sabawneh 779977
First pharmacy 641912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Zaid Al A'ay 623101
Al Sharrar pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mubashir Hajwaj 771111
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 63041
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 669131
Shmeisani Hospital 648845
Al-Mushar Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mubajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army Marks 89161015
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (9983323)
Zarqa National Hospital (99900560)

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:00 New Delhi (RJ)
16:15 Riyadh (RJ)
16:30 Aqaba (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:15 Moscow, New York (RJ)
16:30 Paris (RJ)
16:45 London (RJ)
16:50 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
17:30 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

14:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:00 Moscow, New York (RJ)
16:15 Paris (RJ)
16:30 London (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
16:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
17:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:15 Moscow, New York (RJ)
16:30 Paris (RJ)
16:45 London (RJ)
16:50 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
17:30 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

Masri stresses role of private sector in economy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Al Masri has emphasized the role of the private sector in dealing with the economic situations facing the Kingdom and called for closer cooperation between the private and the public sectors to deal with the question of unemployment.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with delegations representing the Chambers of Industry and Trade as well as the Jordanian Businessmen Society, the prime minister said that there must be an expansion of the industrial sector outside Amman and the other main cities. This expansion, he said, would have beneficial results on the economic, social and environmental life in Jordan.

Mr. Masri stressed that the government was serious in helping the private sector and cooperating with it to overcome all obstacles impeding economic growth and social development.

He spoke about a government plan to deal with economic issues that had been plaguing the private and public sectors and said that the government hoped to deal with such matter through the newly formed Economic Consultancy Council which is due to embark on its duty in the coming week.

He said that the council would be in a position to find solutions for various economic issues of concern to the two sectors.

Mr. Masri also emphasized the importance of government representatives working side by side with the private sector personnel in order to bridge the gap between the two sectors and to submit new proposals for legislation.

Mr. Masri said that concerned ministers would be cooperating with the new council in dealing with issues related to the encouragement of investments, imports, customs fees and taxes as well as administrative and procedural matters.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb was present at the meeting.

Week-long activities in Ajloun camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — A week-long programme of summer activities will start at Ajloun Camp Saturday and Jordanian youth living abroad are expected to take part in the event.

The Ministry of Youth, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, has been organising the activities for expatriate male and female youths in order to bolster their links with the homeland.

Last week, a group of 70 women participants concluded activities at the Ajloun Camp where they carried out a number of voluntary services, received training in various trades and toured archaeological and tourist sites.

According to the Ministry of Youth, the camps are also designed to strengthen ties of brotherhood and friendship among the youth inside and outside Jordan and to orient those living abroad on the Kingdom's developments in industry, trade, tourism and other fields.

A ministry statement said that during the coming week the participants would listen to lectures, take part in seminars of cultural, political and economic nature and make field trips to a number of archaeological sites and development projects.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ★ Handcraft exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Iraqi Artists Ibrahim Rashid and Maha Abdul Karim at Alla Art Gallery, insurance building, 1st Circle.

PIANO RECITAL

- ★ Piano recital by famous Iraqi Pianist Seatrice Ohanessian at the Philadelphia Hotel, Thursday at 8 p.m.



KING ATTENDS CEREMONY

His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday attended a ceremony held by the Royal Guards Unit on the occasion of the anniversary of the King's accession to the throne.

King Hussein was received upon arrival at the unit by Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb. The King visited an exhibition of arms and

machinery at the unit and watched the kwon do exercises. King Hussein also attended, at the Royal Guards Training Centre, the graduation ceremony of several courses. The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, several members of the Royal Family, Prime Minister Taher Masri and Chief of the Royal Court Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Southern Somalis on hunger-strike

UNHCR hopes to have solutions for Gulf refugees by September

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The problems of Gulf crisis evacuees stranded in Jordan after seeking refuge in third countries are expected to be completely resolved by the end of September, but the solutions may not exactly be acceptable to some of those involved, particularly a group of Somalis who are staging a hunger-strike against what they describe as inaction by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Statistics given by UNHCR chief of mission Carl Fonseth showed that the agency was involved with a total of 145 such evacuees — 20 Eritreans, 25 Iraqis and 110 Somalis — who remained in Jordan Wednesday.

"There is no problem with the Eritreans and Iraqis, although they are in two categories," said Mr. Fonseth. UNHCR is only involved in ensuring the passage home of the Eritreans while the agency is directly responsible for the Iraqis, whose applications for political asylum are under consideration by the Canadian and Finnish governments, he said.

"By all counts, we should have clear answers and solutions to all those who remain in Jordan by the end of September," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Fonseth pleaded helplessness in the case of the 12 Somalis who are on hunger-strike against returning home. "We would definitely like to help them, but it is beyond our control," he told the Jordan Times.

The bone of contention between the Somalis who entered the third day of hunger-strike Wednesday and the UNHCR is whether it is safe for Somalis to return home. And neither side is able to establish its case beyond any reasonable doubt since the situation in Somalia remains ambiguous.

While the case of the Somalis is viewed by many in a more humanitarian than political perspective, the UNHCR argument is that its mandate from the General Assembly is limited to extending help to people who have proven cases of political persecution.

And the issue is deadlocked over this rival positions.

The Somalis, who are staging the hunger-strike at the Andalus transit camp near the airport, are

demanding that the UNHCR apply the "last resort" — resettlement — for them rather than send them back home, where, they argue, they face persecution.

Resettlement is available only in cases where "there is no refuge available at all for an asylum-seeker who faces political persecution at home," and in the case of the Somalis it is not applicable, Mr. Fonseth said.

According to Mr. Fonseth, no country is willing to take the Somalis since their argument of political persecution is not accepted by the concerned governments who say that the situation in Somalia has calmed down after years of civil war and the toppling of the regime of Mohammed Siad Barre earlier this year.

But the Somalis demanding UNHCR action counter that despite the change of regime, no one can guarantee their safety.

Violence continued to sweep the Somali countryside as the victorious and-Siad Barre rebels fought with soldiers and armed groups loyal to the ousted leader. But recent reports indicate that a national reconciliation process is under way following a meeting held in Djibouti, attended by all groups and factions.

However, the Somali National Movement (SNM), one of the groups which fought the Siad Barre regime, has opted for secession from Somalia and proclaimed an independent state in the northern part of the country. The Mogadishu government is hoping to convince the SNM through negotiations to abandon its quest for international recognition for the new state and agree to rejoin Somalia under a federal arrangement.

Of the 110 Somali evacuees from Kuwait now in Jordan, 60 hail from the north and are awaiting "family reunions" in Britain and some other countries. "They have been here since August, after arriving from Kuwait, and their papers have been processed and now the decision rests with the immigration authorities of the concerned countries," said Ismail Abdullah Hamdullah, who said he spoke on behalf of Somalis from the northern part of the country.

"Some are awaiting permission to go back to Kuwait and one has already received his visa for Kuwait," Mr. Hamdullah told the Jordan Times. "A family of four from the north is ready to return home, through the port of Ber-

bera," he added.

That leaves about 40 Somalis from the southern part of the country. "Seventeen of them have expressed their desire to return home" through Mogadishu, the capital, said Mr. Fonseth. It was not immediately known whether the hunger-strikers represented the remaining 23.

The UNHCR argues that the same Somalis who argued against returning to their homeland because of fears of persecution by the Siad Barre regime cannot now maintain that they still have such fears after the change in government in Mogadishu.

"There is a new government in power in Somalia and those who were arguing that they faced problems with the (Siad Barre) government cannot now argue that they also face problems with the new government" which toppled the regime, Mr. Fonseth said citing the argument put forth by the governments of other countries.

The Jordanian government, which granted the stay in the country of Somalis and others pending their departure for refuge abroad, is understood to have taken a similar position.

But the Kingdom has a record of respecting international conventions and has not sent anyone anywhere against his or her will.

However, Jordan "cannot continue to extend eternal hospitality," particularly in the case of people who have a choice of returning home without fears of persecution, Mr. Fonseth said.

Independent relief workers familiar with the problems of the Horn of Africa said the economic situation in Somalia, Ethiopia and other countries in the area was very bleak.

"Hunger stalks everyone and there is little chance of anyone getting a job and settling down under the present conditions," said a European volunteer. "There is little for anyone to look forward to while returning home except poverty and suffering," he said, suggesting that economic considerations could be behind the refusal of some of the Somalis to return home.

But those on hunger-strike differ. "We will be persecuted and perhaps killed as soon as we land in Mogadishu," said one of the hunger-strikers at Andalus. "They (UNHCR) might as well give us machine-guns to protect ourselves," he said.

Arabiyat briefs American professors on Jordan's democratic experiment

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat Wednesday briefed a visiting group of American university professors on Jordan's parliamentary and democratic experiment.

"Jordan's democratic experiment is unique in the Arab region and the Jordanian people freely choose their representatives in

Parliament," said Dr. Arabiyat at the meeting.

Dr. Arabiyat said that the Kingdom was keen on deepening the concept of democracy and concerned about resolving all regional issues in a just and on permanent basis.

Referring to the occupied Arab territories, Dr. Arabiyat spoke

about Israel's oppressive measures against the Arab people, its designs to impose hegemony on the Arab region, its continued drive to build Jewish settlements on confiscated Arab land and its eviction of Arab citizens from their homeland.

Israel's intransigent position and its anti-peace orientation, the

speaker said, have been obstructing the peace process and aborting all peace bids.

Dr. Arabiyat told the visitors that Jordan had been helping the Palestinian refugees displaced from their homes in the 1948 and 1967 wars, and was helping to find a just solution to the Palestine problem.



House in session on Wednesday

House approves draft law on protection of national economy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday approved a draft law on the protection of the national economy after introducing some amendments.

A paragraph was added to the draft law empowering the prime minister with the right to order a reexamination of a case that had been dealt with by the Military Court.

The House, meeting under the chairmanship of Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Prime Minister Taher Masri and Cabinet members, also approved a draft law on ending all responsibilities related to any case pertaining to the termination of the martial law in Jordan.

A debate on the draft laws related to martial law followed

the endorsement of the two laws and several deputies took the floor to make remarks.

Justice Minister Tayseer Kanjan said national law is normally declared under dangerous situations when the government cannot rule through normal procedures and requires extra powers.

The House approved a decision by the Investigations Committee which elected Laith Shbeilat as

committee chairman to succeed Salim Al Zubi, who became minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment. The House also approved the resignation of Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar from the chairmanship of the House's Water Committee.

Dr. Arabiyat announced that Parliament's next session will convene Sunday evening.

Freedom committee chairman visits 60 'Mohammad's army' detainees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Public Freedoms Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Ahmad Al Azaidh announced Wednesday that he had visited 60 members of the clandestine group arrested by the security forces on suspicion of sabotage activities in the country and said that the group members would be facing trial soon.

The group, whose members claim they belong to what they call Holy Warriors in the Name of God and the Prophet Mohammad's Army, was apprehended following several attacks on Jordanian citizens and organisations.

The visit followed a statement

on television two days ago by Interior Minister Jawdat Esboul who said that the process of interrogating the suspects was almost over and the trial could begin in the next two weeks.

Mr. Azaidh, speaking in the presence of Parliament member Abdul Hafiz Allawi during a meeting in Madaba, said that the group members would be tried by the state security court which is being created by the government in cooperation with the Lower House of Parliament.

The new court Mr. Azaidh said, would replace the military court that has been functioning under martial law, imposed during the 1967 war.

Jordan Television showed a cache of arms and ammunition, hand grenades and explosives seized by the security forces from the group.

The arrests came in the wake of two car bomb attacks in which a police officer and a 12-year-old girl were seriously injured and lost their legs.

The two deputies, who were addressing a meeting in the presence of District Governor Mishal Al Tarawneh, reviewed Par-

liament's legislative functions and current endeavours to enhance national unity behind the Hashemite leadership.

Mr. Azaidh said that the Public Affairs Committee in Parliament was actively participating in the work of other parliamentary blocs and coordinating work with the government in numerous issues related to public freedom, issues.

The same committee was active in securing the release of political detainees and in reinstating employees dismissed from their jobs for political reasons.

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Applicants must have completed their military service.

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Personnel Officer
P.O.Box 5594 Amman, Jordan.

Application will be treated with discretion.

Only the adequate applicants shall be contacted.

International express and courier organisation born

AMMAN — TNT Ltd, the global transportation group, and the postal organisations of Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada have reached agreement to form a joint venture.

The joint venture's revenues will be around \$1 billion in the first year. This agreement provides for an international courier and express parcel organisation offering international time-certain deliveries on a worldwide scale.

The new company will be autonomous and will be managed independently of both shareholders. It will be jointly

controlled on a fifty-fifty basis by TNT Ltd. and the postal organisation. By selling the joint venture's products as part of their product range, the five postal organisations will be able to offer their customers services of superior quality.

The total international transportation structure of TNT Express Worldwide, including its aircraft, vehicles, sortation depots, offices, linehaul, pickup and delivery operation, information technology systems will be brought into the joint venture. The joint venture is scheduled to become operational by the end of 1991.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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MOHAMMAD AMAD

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One year after

A YEAR AGO, Iraqi army tanks rolled into Kuwait to open a new chapter in Arab history. As it happened, the few kilometres' desert trek has churned out no less than a world history bookshop.

Based on this, it may be too early to draw and learn all the lessons from the so-called Gulf crisis. We are not yet sure of all the facts that preceded and followed the invasion. We do not know what genuine thinking guided the principal players. And we certainly have not heard the last word about the kind of change, if any, that this region should expect in its aftermath. This does not mean of course that there are not enough coordinates to tell us where we stand and what we think, here in Jordan.

From day one this country took a principled stand on the invasion: We opposed the occupation and annexation of Kuwait but at the same time insisted on a peaceful, and preferably Arab, solution. The extent of human suffering, material damage, pollution to the environment, demographic changes and economic and financial losses that resulted from the war is proof that a peaceful solution such as we advocated would have been the preferable course of action. We say this in the belief that had the latter-day allies supported King Hussein's initial efforts to obtain an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the world will have got exactly what it wanted at virtually no cost at all.

But having lived with our principles and clear conscience throughout the crisis until this very day does not mean that we condone the mistakes that were made or the crimes that were committed. We are better aware of our reality, though not bitter about the heavy price we have had to pay for our beliefs and principles. While we sincerely hope the Gulf war is the last one in this region and throughout the world, we insist on addressing the issues that caused it in the first place. The lack of democracy, the curbs on freedoms and human rights, the imbalance in resources, occupation of territory by force and the unfair distribution of wealth are but major problems that have to be tackled and solved here, as elsewhere, before political, social and economic stability can win over the real and perennial causes of war. The onus, therefore, is on the so-called victors in the Gulf war to be serious and to do what they can to help its victims, especially the innocent majority amongst them.

Jordan and its people will not rest before the suffering of the Iraqi people and the Palestinians is ended once and for all. To use the tragedies faced by Iraqi and Palestinian children and families as tools in some people's war against Saddam Hussein and Yasser Arafat is to sink to the lowest depths of hypocrisy and meanness. While Saddam Hussein cannot be absolved of his responsibility for the tragedies that befell his people, the Americans and their allies — whether Arab, Israeli or otherwise cannot — be exonerated for making a victim out of those who, largely out of desperation, supported one Arab regime against another. The U.S. in particular has got to convince Israel that justice is indivisible and human rights are the same, whether in Kuwait or Palestine.

A year after the eruption in the Gulf, the major lesson that has to be learned is that peace has to prevail, not only because war is not the answer to any problem, but also because the answers to our problems lie only in peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The United States and its allies are currently committing a real massacre against the Iraqi people under the nose of the international community and the Arab World, a massacre that is unprecedented in world history, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Observers can only feel indignant and horrified at the disgusting and shameful acts of the Western leaders who brag about a new world order and human rights and justice at a time when they maintain a blockade on a whole nation, said the paper. These Western leaders are now fabricating new pretexts to justify further acts of aggression on the Iraqi people and continue to lie to their people and to the world community about the facts, said the paper. These actions, the paper noted, are nothing but a total disregard to human values and principles and all international conventions, because they are directed mainly against the children and the innocent people and not against the leaders of Iraq as the Western propaganda maintains. It is enough for a human being to read reports and watch documentary films about the situation in Iraq to feel horrified over the scenes of the victims of this Western aggression and it is really shameful not to see such reports published in the West so that the Western leaders can be held responsible for their actions before their peoples, the paper said. The paper said by pursuing their shameful acts and atrocities, the Western leaders can only win the condemnation and contempt of the world community.

As the world community is watching attempts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and settle the Palestine issue, Israel is keen on creating a real problem out of the Palestinian people's representation at the coming peace conference, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. The paper said that the United States and the whole world community do not recognise Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem and consider its decision to unify the city as null and void, which means that the Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem have all the right to be represented in the peace talks. It is unreasonable for the United States to allow Israel to veto the peace talks over this point and it is unreasonable for the Soviet-U.S. summit to succumb to Israel's whims which manifest the Jewish state's total disregard to international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions, the paper continued. The paper said that on the eve of a fresh tour by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker of the Middle East region, it seems that the U.S. administration is falling under renewed pressure from world Zionism and it is feared that such pressure would adversely reflect on the situation in the region and the peace prospects.

One year later:

Linkage between Gulf, Middle East crises realised

By Jonathan Wright
Reuter

NICOSIA — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, seeking Arab and Muslim support against the alliance closing in on him, linked Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The United States and its allies, even the Arabs among them, dismissed the linkage as transparent opportunism.

One year later, Washington is up to its o'ck in a diplomatic initiative which offers the best hope in years or an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the festering sore which made President Saddam credible to large sections of the Arab audience.

The Middle East peace drive was at the centre of summit talks in Moscow on Tuesday between the U.S. and Soviet presidents, George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Haunted by Arab accusations that it applied double standards in the Middle East by conniving in the Israeli occupation while pounding Iraq with its military might, the United States has put its weight behind a settlement

based on U.N. resolutions. Hardly had the dust of the Gulf war settled at the end of February before Mr. Bush turned his attention to the problem.

"The war with Iraq is over. The time has come to put an end to Arab-Israeli conflict. The quest for solutions... must go forward with new vigour and determination," he told Congress in a landmark speech on March 6.

U.S. officials said the allied victory in the Gulf war, coupled with the fact that for the first time in recent history Israel and Arab states had faced the same enemy, opened a new "window of opportunity" for a settlement.

Arab diplomats, optimistic that the new mood might lead to results, said the new element was the commitment of the United States, which emerged from the war as an unchallenged superpower ready to enforce Mr. Bush's vision of a "new world order."

"Bush has put his foot in the Middle East and has not had it bitten off. Arabs now trust him and they think he understands the Middle East. Those are major factors," one diplomat said.

While U.S. prestige rose,

Iraq's fell.

Pre-war Iraq, seeking to enhance its regional influence, had posed as champion of the Palestinian cause. But the factions it sponsored, such as the Palestine Liberation Front of Abul Abbas, opposed recognition of Israel and a two-state solution.

Military defeat, U.N. sanctions and political isolation have now knocked Iraq out of the equation, clearing the way for other Arab states to come forward and talks of peace.

Saudi Arabia, for example, offered this month to lift the economic embargo on Israel in return for a freeze on new Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Saudis, partly because they felt intimidated by their powerful and radical northern neighbour, had long resisted U.S. pressure to make concessions to Israel.

Another psychological factor — the collapse of traditional Arab nationalism as a credible ideology — also played a part in Riyadh's change of heart.

Kuwaitis compared the behaviour of Iraqi troops with that of Israeli soldiers in the occupied

territories. Many concluded the Iraqis had the edge in brutality.

They and other Gulf Arabs accused Iraq's sympathisers — Jordan, Yemee and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — of treachery and ingratitude. Never again would they let Arab solidarity stand in the way of narrow self-interest, they said.

Israel, on the other side of the Middle East conflict, looked like a winner in the Gulf war. But diplomats and analysts say the outcome was not altogether in its favour.

It showed that in a crisis Israel, though still the most powerful state in the region militarily, could not dispense with the defence umbrella provided by the United States.

Israel, often described by Arabs as Washington's policeman in the Middle East, proved more of a liability than an asset in a U.S. strategy dominated by Gulf oil.

The United States devoted much diplomatic effort to keeping Israel out of the fighting and much military effort to destroying the Iraqi missiles which threatened to drag the Jewish state into the war.

The missiles, flying hundreds of miles to hit the Israeli heartland, weakened the Jewish state's argument that it needed the Syrian Golan Heights and other occupied territory to give it advance warning of any Arab attack.

The United Nations, by bending to the will of the United States and its allies in their campaign against Iraq, emerged from the war with unprecedented vigour and prestige.

And that prestige must rub off on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, passed in 1967 and 1973 as the basis for a Middle East settlement, analysts say.

The resolutions, endorsed by Mr. Bush in his March 6 speech, offer Israel peace with its neighbours in exchange for the territory it occupied in the Middle East war of 1967.

The Israeli government rejects a U.N. role in the peace conference the United States is trying to set up and refuses to withdraw from an inch of the territories.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, after five tours of the Middle East since the end of the war in February, has come closer than ever to arranging direct talks between Israel and all its Arab

neighbours. Major obstacles to a conference remain — representation for the Palestinians, especially those from Arab East Jerusalem, the proposed presence of a U.N. observer and the status of East Jerusalem on the agenda.

Even if they cross the first hurdle and the old enemies sit down at the negotiating table, an Israeli refusal to make territorial concessions would quickly lead to deadlock.

"If Israel is not going to quit the occupied lands, why should we want peace?" Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said in an interview to be published in Newsweek.

But the mere fact that Syria, once the pivot of Arab opposition to the U.S.-sponsored Camp David peace process, is talking peace shows how much has changed in the Middle East.

Mr. Assad, in the Newsweek interview, praised the Bush administration for an "experience and enlightenment (that) is good for the region and good for the world."

One year ago, before Iraq invaded Kuwait, no one could have imagined him speaking that language.

Moving the 'iron curtain' eastwards is no solution

By Franz Vranitzky

The writer is federal chancellor of Austria. The article is reprinted from Austria Today.

IN THE German language the term Sicherheit, like the adjective sicher, has several different meanings. It means sure or certain, free of surprises, foreseeable, but also unharmed and safe in the physical sense. This raises the question of what people really expect when they talk about security: what are their hopes, what are their anxieties and fears?

Europe has become a peaceful continent where people are no longer afraid of external aggression or military confrontations between states. They are concerned about internal disturbances and ethnic problems that might escalate to violence and spill over national borders, but their fears mainly take different directions now. The fear of environmental devastation and its immediate effects on people's lives ranks very high in the list of concerns. The fear of terrorism, of new diseases, of mass migration and related issues, come close.

People want to feel secure in every sense of the word — secure in their lives, secure in their economic and social status, secure in fulfilling their own human and intellectual potential, secure in their relations with each other and in their relations with the outside world.

"I would consider it wrong to create expectations in such sensitive points which in all probability will not be fulfilled."

All states are therefore faced with new demands in these respects, and also with demands for new forms of international cooperation to cope with them. Some of these demands go far. The state cannot guarantee a future free of surprises. It cannot guarantee security from the effects of change. For one thing is certain: the future is going to bring very rapid change, and it is in the very nature of things that this cannot always be planned for in advance.

The most we can aim for is not security from change, but a certain security during change. Nonetheless, the often very deep-seated fears aroused by change have to be attended to. For many of the worst things people think of and do have their origins, not in strength, but in fear. A European security system must therefore be credible in addressing some of these basic fears that are the cause of potential havoc in irrationality.

For more than four decades the contest between the Communist world and the West was the most important issue of international political life. In the shadow of this contest Western Europe has enjoyed a long period of peace and stability and an undisturbed development of stable and prosperous societies. In the Eastern part of the continent progress and development in all sectors of public life have been stifled. The artificial border lines have exacted a heavy toll.

Now, through a combination of factors, but mainly through the

will and determination of the people of Central and Eastern Europe, the situation has changed. It has changed profoundly and irreversibly. One by one, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have broken the stalemate of Communist rule and returned to the community of free and democratic European nations. One by one, they have reaffirmed their European identity and traditions and have resumed their rightful place in this continent — where they have been sorely missed during the past forty-five years.

The contest between the superpowers has given way to dialogue — strained on some occasions, but dialogue nevertheless. It has given way to an acceptance of joint global responsibilities.

All of a sudden, and for the first time in postwar history, we are presented with an unencumbered perspective view of Europe in its entirety, and the chance to plan and work for the future of the continent as such. The tasks lying ahead of us are big, and to succeed in them will demand perseverance and political imagination. But, big as they are, they are not unmanageable. Many things are already in place, are assets for a smooth future development.

The most important of these assets, in my view, is that we embark on this process from an equal base as free and democratic societies. Recent history has shown that democracies do not wage war against each other, and that democracy as a political system does not easily or for long tolerate an aggressive posture towards the outside world. Also, in whatever form this security system may finally emerge, it will have to rely on the settlement of disputes by negotiation and compromise, by forging a common purpose and a balance among sometimes divergent political interests. It will thus rely on exactly the same techniques for conflict resolution that are employed in every democratic system.

There is agreement that a cooperative framework is the only viable and durable approach to a new security system. The traditional concept of the nation state, its role and its function, is changing. The times when a concert of great powers could exercise control over the fates of the smaller countries in their regions, and dictate their behaviour, have passed for good. Borders, territorial expansion, size and military power have now acquired a different meaning in international relations. Some large powers have not achieved their desired goals, and some small ones have. The small and weak can now feel comfortable in the presence of a large and powerful neighbour. Full unfettered sovereignty is no longer an end in itself. We have become accustomed to sharing sovereignty on the basis of free choice, on the basis of a convergence of interests, as equal partners in a spirit of cooperation and mutual confidence.

One of the characteristics of Europe has been and will always be its diversity. This applies not only to people, ethnicity, religions and languages. It applies also to the methods states have

chosen to satisfy their security needs. Some are members of NATO or the Western European Union. Some are non-aligned, and some have chosen the status of neutrality as the most suitable option for their security problem. Some have, in addition to their other obligations, entered into bilateral agreements such as the French-German cooperation.

These individual choices and obligations will probably remain. My premise would thus be that, to the largest possible extent, we should work with the existing institutions and avoid the creation of new structures, which might prove a time-consuming and cumbersome exercise. What is needed, however, is a solid common roof. This is offered by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Not only is the CSCE process the only comprehensive European endeavour of which all European states are part; it has also succeeded in bringing together the various aspects of security and treating them as a whole. It combines the question of political and military security with the question of human rights, personal freedoms, and economic development and cooperation. It ensures the continued involvement of the United States and the Soviet Union. It is thus eminently functional in dealing with those changes which are presently taking place in Europe, and its procedures are flexible enough to cope with new situations as they arise.

The new CSCE institutions which were created at the summit conference in Paris in November 1990 are only the beginning of a more structured form of organisation. Nonetheless, they have already given the CSCE a new direction. The permanent CSCE secretariat in Prague will facilitate its operations, and the Conflict Prevention Centre, which we are glad to host in Vienna, has a good chance of becoming the core of a system of cooperative security. At present its mandate is confined to measures of verification and confidence-building. The Austrian government and others have, however, submitted ideas and proposals for a wider

role for the centre in the field of peaceful settlement of disputes. It is encouraging to note that these ideas have attracted a positive response, even from those NATO members who at first feared an infringement of NATO functions.

In his recently published book *Barbarian Sentiments* the American journalist William Pfaff maintains that the Soviet political control of Eastern and East-Central Europe has been a historical parenthesis which is now being closed. He asserts that nothing fundamental or lasting has been achieved by it.

"In any case the principle that applies is 'Beware of powers in their rise, beware in their decline!'"

I would agree with his assessment. But, on the other hand, the closing of this parenthesis reopens a number of questions — questions that were suppressed by the Cold War and are thus surfacing only now.

A number of old problems within and between countries are flaring up and regaining importance. Unachieved national aspirations, unresolved ethnic or religious tensions and even debates on frontiers, have suddenly become issues which demand careful and wise attention and proper management. None of the existing institutions is at present equipped to handle such issues, but the Conflict Prevention Centre with an enlarged mandate could very well play a role in these questions.

In doing so it could draw, for instance, on the expertise of the Council of Europe in respect of minority rights and ethnic problems, and thus set an example for the efficient networking of European institutions which in my view is necessary.

Any consideration of a future European security system would be incomplete were it to ignore the economic and social aspects of the subject. It would be morally and politically wrong to accept

yet another division of Europe, this time into wealthy and struggling economies. It is a matter of plain self-interest for the Western industrialised countries to assist the necessary transformation in Central and Eastern Europe as effectively and generously as possible. All this is evident and, at least partially, efforts are being made to this end.

What remains to be considered, however, is the future participation of the newly democratic states in the broad network of European integration. Here, again, a flexible approach is called for. Hungary and Czechoslovakia have already joined the Council of Europe as full members, and Poland will soon follow. Other states from the region have been given special guest status and cooperate in some of the council's activities and programmes. Negotiations with EFTA and the European Community about special treaties of association are well under way, and offer bilateral as well as multilateral cooperation which, in the light of the ongoing negotiations between the EC and EFTA, may well be expanded in the future. This pragmatic approach of one step at a time in line with the internal developments of the countries concerned will have to be pursued.

In summing up, I would like to stress a few points which seem significant to me.

1. Normality has returned. The democratic revolutions in the Central and Eastern European countries do not signify a precarious development. They represent a return to European normality. We must not expect the reforms to fail, but to succeed in spite of some of the difficulties of transition.

2. Beware of the prophets. Nobody has ready-made concepts to offer on how best to overcome these difficulties. There are no precedents for the present situation in those countries. Advice, know-how and assistance are certainly at their disposal, but basically it will be up to the nations themselves to decide what they want, which way they will go, and where they will turn for advice or assistance. I would assume that,

after so many years of being told what to do, it will come as a great relief to them to be masters of their own decisions.

3. Realism is called for. One must assume that even with the best of all intentions, their full integration into Western Europe will take time. Realistically, it cannot be expected that NATO will rapidly extend its zone of influence right to the Soviet border, nor will the European Community be ready in the foreseeable future to consider such a drastic enlargement. I would consider it wrong to create expectations in such sensitive points, which in all probability will not be fulfilled. Therefore, interim solutions will have to be found which satisfy the immediate needs and can be further developed and extended. Needless to say, such interim solution will have to fit into the greater European architecture, and into the final goal of a really cohesive, peaceful and wealthy greater Europe.

4. I would consider it very important that the Central and Eastern European countries strengthen and develop relations among themselves, in parallel to their relations with Western Europe. Again, this is something they themselves have to decide, and where others can only assist in a limited way.

5. European states today pose no threat to each other. Threats to security arise from different sources and therefore demand different responses. Political policies have to be adapted accordingly.

6. We cannot ignore the reality that developments in Europe will to a certain extent be influenced by developments in the Soviet Union. It is unclear at present which turn developments there will take, but in any case the principle that applies is "Beware of powers in their rise, beware in their decline!"

Whatever happens, the Soviet Union will remain a serious and powerful player on this continent. We will be well advised to present it with a European option for its future. Merely shifting the Iron Curtain several hundred kilometres to the East will do nothing against all odds.

Democracy against all odds

By Safwan Bataineh

PRECARIOUSLY straddling the sharpest edges of the north-south divide, the small Kingdom of Jordan is busy nowadays attempting a mammoth and rare feat in politics: the establishment of full party democracy in a pluralistic Third World society. A newly appointed cabinet headed by a freely-elected member of parliament has been given the job of adding the final touches to the democratisation process, including setting the legal framework for the emergent national parties.

Mercifully, such a process need not start from zero point nor develop in a vacuum. Jordan has an intensely democratic culture and a parliamentary tradition spanning four decades.

The political impulse of the nation is to seek consensus, thus driving Jordanians to resolve tendentiously towards the middle grounds; fertile though these grounds may be with mediocrity and inertia.

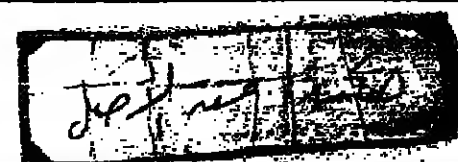
And lest anyone should attribute Jordan's dogged march towards democracy to the pressures of international developments, one should remember that all the major decisions concerning the democratic process and the initial steps of holding free national elections and granting freedom to the press came long before the first cracks appeared in the Berlin Wall. In fact, what is taking place in Jordan can be more accurately described as a revival and enhancement of an existing democratic tradition; a tradition that laid dormant when the 1967 war made it impossible to hold nationwide elections until political links

with the West Bank were severed in 1988. Therefore, Jordan neither aims to flatter through imitation nor seeks rewards for good behaviour. Quite the opposite, for this writer believes that Jordan has received advice from democratic governments and blackmail from non-democratic ones (or is it the other way around?) not to proceed with democratisation.

Jordan, which has served throughout forty years as a shining example of tolerance in an increasingly repressive Third World, only hopes that others in the region should follow in its footsteps towards a brighter, more prosperous future for the Arab Nation. And, if it is not asking for too much, it hopes that democratic powers which harangued incessantly and dissonantly about the virtues of democratic ways while at the same time backing repressive regimes all over the

southern hemisphere, that these powers should of moral courage and rein in their misadventures, which has wreaked havoc in the region over those same forty years and has been the greatest single obstacle to Jordan's political and economic progress.

Meanwhile, Jordan, will press on with the quest of fulfilling long-chambered dreams. Neither misadventures nor schemes from within will cause it to veer off the high road. Guided by the vision of the Monarch, led by a new generation of youthful and high-minded statesmen, and propelled by the best interests of a noble people, Jordan will prod on, making the most of its scrappy resources, braving storm and thunder, and standing well against all odds.



Majda Al Roumi: I will never forget my nights in Jerash

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The ancient city of Jerash came alive with thundering applause from thousands of devoted fans, as they awaited impatiently for a glimpse of what was in store for the night. Suddenly ev-

erything came to a halt as the spotlight dropped down to the stage of the South Theatre introducing the festival's darling — Lebanese singer Majda Al Roumi.

The ancient city rocked, as her music filled the night air. Moving with the music the audience interrupted the sin-

ger after every song, screaming and yelling her name.

Standing in centre stage, Majda sang a range of songs which included a number of hits that had made her famous. Spellbound by her rhythms, the audience reacted wildly to her music, clapping and even dancing on the stairs of the ancient amphitheatre.

Dedicating her opening song to the city of Amman, and to the warm welcome she received in Jerash. Her home-country — Lebanon — torn for 17 years in a bitter civil war did not escape her attention. Majda sang a number of songs commemorating the end of close to two decades of a tragedy that had befallen Lebanon.

"The Jordanian audience has a special place in my heart," Majda said in an interview with the Jordan Times WEEKENDER. "I come to Jerash with deep love and I feel that my audience returns that love."

Describing her three-nights in Jerash, Majda said her experience there made her the happiest person alive. "I will never forget my nights in Jerash, or find a more giving audience," she said.

Majda first appeared in Jerash in 1986, and was called back in 1988, and 1991. "It (her appearance in Jerash in 1986) was the first of my stage performances," she said. "It was my real break in my professional career," she added, explaining that the festival was taped and circulated around the Arab World giving her "the first chance to stardom."

She also participated in a number of other festivals especially the Carthage Festival in Tunis in 1980, 1987, and 1990.

As a young girl, Majda was always drawn to music. Her first debut was in 1974 when she appeared on a local Lebanese talent show and won first prize.

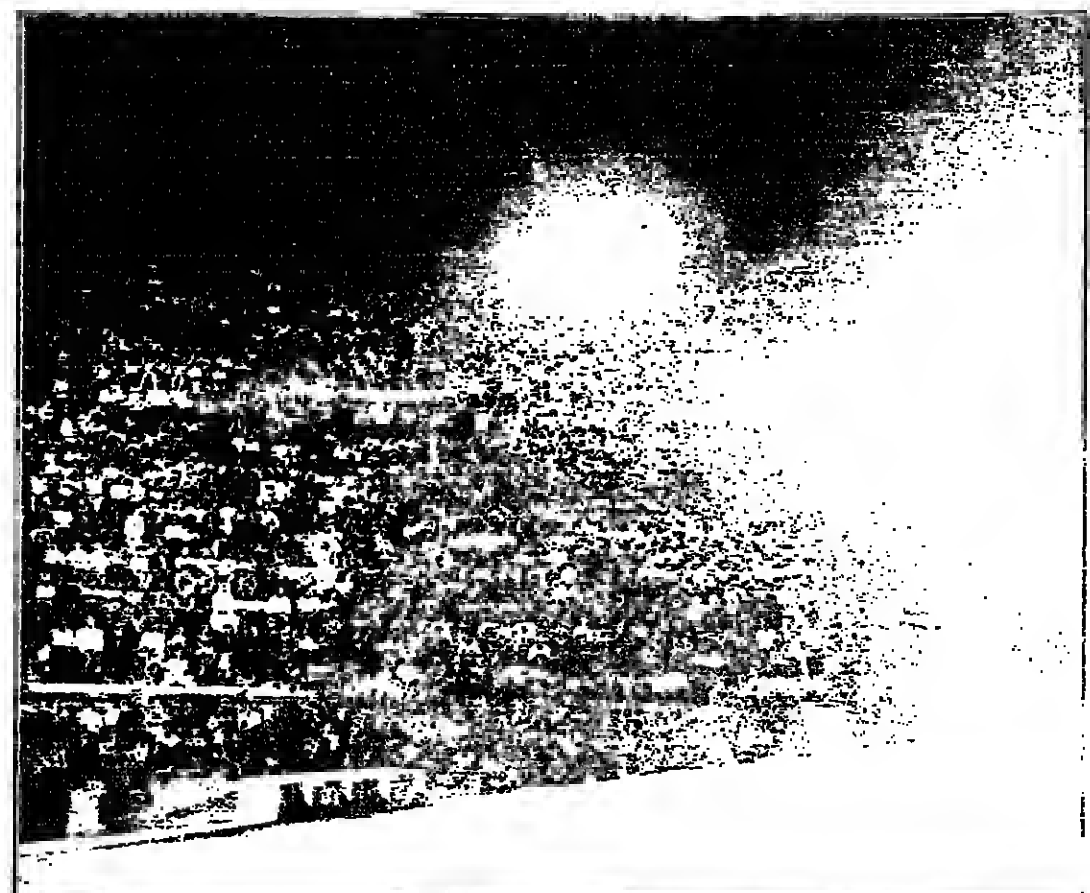
Born into a musical family,

Majda was inspired by her well known father, Lebanese composer Haleem Al-Roumi. "The positive influence of my father had instilled in me the feeling that art was a sublime mission."

Another musical figure in Majda's life is the internationally renowned Lebanese singer Fairuz. "We grew up with her voice," she said. "I was affected by the strength of her character, and I always hoped that I could incorporate that strength into my own career."

"Fairuz appeared to the public with the full zest of human feelings, expressing people's sorrowful moods, hopes and aspirations, and this is what gave me the impression that her words express a wonderful feeling to people," Majda said. "She also transformed art into something more than emotions, it became a vehicle that guides people towards what is better and more sublime."

With a deep rooted pain



Majda Al Roumi captivates her audience at the South Theatre in Jerash (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

reflected in her expression, Majda spoke about the war in Lebanon and its effects on the young generation trapped in that feud. "The war be-

came an integral part of my being, and anyone who knows me and hears my songs knows that this war affected me very deeply," she

reflected. "I believe that I was bound to it because it was part of my destiny regardless of the greatness of that tragedy."

Louisa Hanoun — a politician for whom people come first

By Tom Porteous

ALGIERS — "The party that says what it does and does what it says," the slogan of Algeria's Parti Des Travailleurs applies equally to the party's dynamic and competitive leader, Louisa Hanoun, the only female leader of a sizeable political party in the Arab World.

Ms. Hanoun's challenging style, her fluent rhetoric in Arabic and French, her refusal to compromise her principles and her striking presence have given her left-of-centre party a prominence far beyond its moderate-sized membership and limited financial means. In Algeria, the very fact that a woman can successfully lead a party gives hope and confidence to women who are campaigning to end years of discrimination. Ms. Hanoun's role angers some of her male political opponents. Her Party's militants are regularly taunted at political rallies because of their leader's sex; she frequently receives hate mail at her office and at home, and she is persistently harassed by the secret police. A former minister of interior went so far as to insult her on television, describing her as a "repudiated" woman.

But Ms. Hanoun is not easily intimidated. She has been fighting for her beliefs for too long. Born into a conservative peasant family in the 1950s, her militancy flowered at home. "My parents were uneducated, and in my day girls didn't go to school," she says. "I had to struggle to pursue my studies, I finally had to leave home to attend university because my father was against education. He didn't think it necessary, and he had various means to keep me from further study, for example by forcing me to marry or preventing me from taking a job."

Very soon, Ms. Hanoun says, she realised that the inferior position of women was linked to many other social, legal, political and economic issues, that in effect the whole political system had to be modified if women could ever hope to end the discrimination against them. And that, says Ms. Hanoun, was how she developed the political ambitions that have brought her to her current position.

It was a long struggle and a dangerous one in the one-party state that existed in Algeria until the violent riot-

ing of October 1988 put pressure on the regime to introduce democratic reform. After studying law, Ms. Hanoun worked, as she still does today, in the legal department of an aviation company at Algiers airport. She started her political work as a women's-rights activist before becoming involved in the labour union movement. In 1980 she joined the Organisation Socialiste Des Travailleurs, which at the time was banned and was operating underground. It was later renamed the Parti Des Travailleurs.

Ms. Hanoun was imprisoned in 1983, with 14 other members of her party, but was released six months later as the result of an international campaign on behalf of Algerian political prisoners. At least in prison, says Hanoun, there was no discrimination: She was the equal of her male comrades before the law.

Uneasy alliance

Now that political pluralism is guaranteed in a new constitution, Ms. Hanoun feels that her experience in the underground opposition and in prison gives her party more credibility than most of the opposition parties, which, with few exceptions, came into being after political reforms were introduced. The experience is also the source of Ms. Hanoun's affinity to the main Islamic fundamentalist party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which also had its roots in the underground.

In one sense the FIS represents everything that Ms. Hanoun abhors, including the mixing of religion and politics, intolerance of different points of view, the return of women from the workplace to the home and a ban on allowing the two sexes to study and work together. But although Ms. Hanoun is openly critical of the Salvation Front's political platform, she says she sympathises with the movement in its struggle against the socialist old guard, which is doing all it can to hang onto political and economic power.

Ms. Hanoun thus has been supporting the Salvation Front's campaign of strikes and demonstrations that have led to the recent violence in Algeria, to the postponement of the first free general elec-



Louisa Hanoun

tions and to the imposition of a state of siege that has brought the army into the streets. Ms. Hanoun supports the Islamists' claims that the electoral law under which the elections were to take place was unfair and undemocratic. And although most of the other opposition parties have more or less supported the government's strong-arm tactics against the fundamentalists, Ms. Hanoun's party has strongly condemned the violent methods used by the police.

With first-hand experience of the social and economic conditions in which young Algerians, in particular, live in the cities' slums, Ms. Hanoun is well aware of the frustrations and misery that lie behind the popularity of the fundamentalist movement. Although she rejects the idea of an Islamic solution to the country's problems, she supports some of the economic and social aspirations of the FIS. In fact, her own party draws its support from much the same environment, although in quieter fashion.

"All the opposition parties have begun to denounce the FIS and to align themselves behind the regime. And now you have a so-called democratic bloc on one side and the fundamentalists on the other. And the people? The people are caught between the two. But they know that the FIS demands are justified, and they have seen the blood of FIS militants on the streets and the violence of the police. By siding with the regime against the fundamentalists, the opposition parties are leaving the political field wide open, and you can be sure that it will fill up with FIS supporters," she says.

In the complex and opportunistic world of Algerian politics, Ms. Hanoun's frankness has not made her wel-

come, but her determination to champion democratic freedoms is based on a deep suspicion of the regime that once sent her to prison and on a greater degree of contact with poor, ordinary Algerians than most politicians have.

In Belcourt, where Ms. Hanoun's party has its headquarters, and in the other poor working-class districts of Algiers, Ms. Hanoun and her lieutenants work closely with the people, holding regular meetings, cooperating with unions and stepping in when local social and legal problems arise. A natural speaker in Arabic and French, Ms. Hanoun can hold a crowd and explain relatively complex issues in a way that anyone can understand.

"The first thing to do," says Ms. Hanoun of Algeria's all-too-fragile democratic experiment, "is to give people back their confidence that they have lost over the years of not being able to express themselves politically. Every day people telephone us and say, 'we are not for your party, but we want to learn how to vote and we want to vote well.' They want programmes and positions. They want to indulge in politics."

On her many trips around the country as party leader, Ms. Hanoun says she has never met any hostility from the public because of her sex. "The fact that I am a woman has enormously helped the cause of women's rights," she says. "Because in the most out-of-the-way and backward parts of the country the peasants listen to me and they say 'she may be a woman, but she is the only one who speaks the truth, the only one with a real spirit of justice.'"

Ms. Hanoun's platform includes the implementation of democratic socialism, an end to the concentration of Algeria's economy on exporting oil and gas, revitalisation of the much-neglected agricultural sector, the separation of state and religion and the abolition of the notorious Code de Famille, which institutionalises women's inferior legal status.

After the collapse of Socialist regimes in Eastern Europe and the apparent vindication of the Western system, it is tempting to dismiss Ms. Hanoun's platform as utopian idealism. But Ms. Hanoun points out that the

programme of the fundamentalists, based literally on sacred texts 14 centuries old, is no less idealistic and that the proven performance of the present regime — and the political elite that has supported it — had led the country into economic ruin and to the brink of civil war.

And Ms. Hanoun's position on women's rights has persuaded her that in some important respects there is little difference between the regime's outlook and that of the Islamists. After all, she says, it was the state that, in 1985, adopted the Code de Famille under which a woman remains under the tutelage of her father or her husband all her life, cannot marry without her father's consent and cannot work without her husband's consent.

"The code is a step 30 years backward for Algerian women," says Ms. Hanoun. "And from the moment it was adopted, the Popular National Assembly (parliament) has used it as a legal basis on which to introduce or propose measures and laws that limit even further the rights of women." As examples, Ms. Hanoun cites the recent electoral law that allows a man to vote on behalf of his wife without her agreement and proposals to reduce unemployment by excluding women from work and to abolish school sports programmes for girls.

"It is true that the Islamic movement is against rights for women," says Ms. Hanoun, "but, listen: It was the state which imposed the Code de Famille, and there are other opposition parties that call themselves modern and secular but that say women are fine as they are and there is no need to modify their position in Algerian society."

In Ms. Hanoun's view both the fundamentalists and the regime have used Islam as a justification for the exploitation of women, and this has nurtured her strong conviction that the future of Algeria will be best served by a complete separation of religion and politics.

"Politics," she says, "concern all human beings, men and women, who live in the society; it concerns the life and management of the country. Religion is a question of conviction, and it should not be debated or discussed in the political arena" — World News Link.

Haute couture suppliers — the last craftsmen of luxury goods

By Claire Thierry

Behind the shopwindows with their unaffordable luxury goods, a medley of craftsmen beavers away, with deft hands and lots of talent, to produce the extravagant creations thought up by the couturiers.

PARIS — Without them, haute couture would not exist. The suppliers to high fashion are craftsmen specialised in skills of the past. They are artists in feathers and sequins, diamante and shankskin.

They are embroiderers, feather-dressers, fashion decorators, boot and shoe-makers, hatters, furriers, pleaters and trimmers. They have the slow, deliberate gestures of people who perpetuate traditions in workshops which have sometimes been going for a hundred years. Almost everything is done by hand, and that takes time, a lot of time. But does time matter when the result is incomparable?

Without them, what would couturiers' models, whose splendour is reproduced in magazines all over the world, be like? There would be no embroidered cloaks from Jean-Louis Scherrer, spangled tops from Chanel, gaudy jackets, or linen, string and gold suits from Lacroix, without the knowhow of the last art embroiderers and trimmers.

In the very famous Lesage firm, sixty embroiderers sew on some 300 kilos of beads and more than 100 million sequins a year, onto gauze, organdi, silk or leather. A single sample (a small square about ten centimetres by ten) can represent 40 to 60 hours of work and include up to a hundred thousand stitches.

Charles Tardif and his daughter Pascale also produce dreamy embroidery. They have kept the tradition of the "Beauvais stitch" in the family firm created by their forebear Jules Zéau in 1902. It is a typically French hem-chain stitch, entirely done by hand, and known all over the world. Their embroidery-workers still work at home with the percale, linen or silk they are working on, stretched over frames. Their nimble needles trace coloured arabesques which have been drawn on cards to meet orders from prestigious clients such as Dior, Lacroix and Nina Ricci, but also Leron in New York, Harrods in London, Mitsukoshi in

whose imaginative creations are a delight at the big horse-races.

And then there is Pierre Debar and Patrick Wolfer, who took over from Mr. Auguste Michel, a firm founded in 1936. The firm makes hats for the collections of Pierre Cardin, Yves Saint-Laurent, Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel and Christian Lacroix. Their designs, made into rigid canvas prototypes are used to carve a wooden block on which straw hats will be shaped and sewn or felt ones stretched and softened with steam. The last hat blocker in the world is Italian. He is called Lorenzo Ré and he works in Paris.

Hats and hoods

In the area of trimming, Madame Raymonde Pouzieux is the queen of braiding. She inherited a business created in 1872 and says she "can do what nobody knows how to do" and that is no doubt the reason why the couturier Christian Lacroix swears by her. Kilometres of the fanciest braid, point lace, netting and baroque embroidered and lace edging, whose clever arabesques will swirl on the velvet bodice of some distant princess, come from her antique workshop. In order to make these masterpieces, this artist uses precious machines: Twelve weaving-loom, copper and wooden rollers, a bobbin for making skeins and a hand spinning-wheel.

Fashion also means headgear, hats, hoods, boaters with flowers and feathers, veils and ribbons. The longest-established and most classical hatters are Jean Barther and Jean-Charles Brosseau and the youngest and boldest are Philippe Model and Marie Mercie.

The painful question at the end of the twentieth century is: Will this luxury craftsmanship, with its astronomical production costs, survive at a time when wealthy customers are getting scarcer and few young people are taking up these jobs of the past? The future already smacks of nostalgia — L'Actualite En France.



F.P. Lesage is a virtuoso of the Haute couture embroidery.

This Week

House Guests

By Maha Addasi

YOU know that summer is here when you receive that much-dreaded phone call from "friends" who have decided (without asking you) to spend a "few" days at your house. Fortunately, they gave you a whole 48 hours' advanced notice, which means that you have to change all your plans to accommodate them. Within two days you have to be mentally prepared for house guests. You do not know how many guests though because you were too polite to ask. You do not know how long they will stay because you were not brought up to ask such questions.

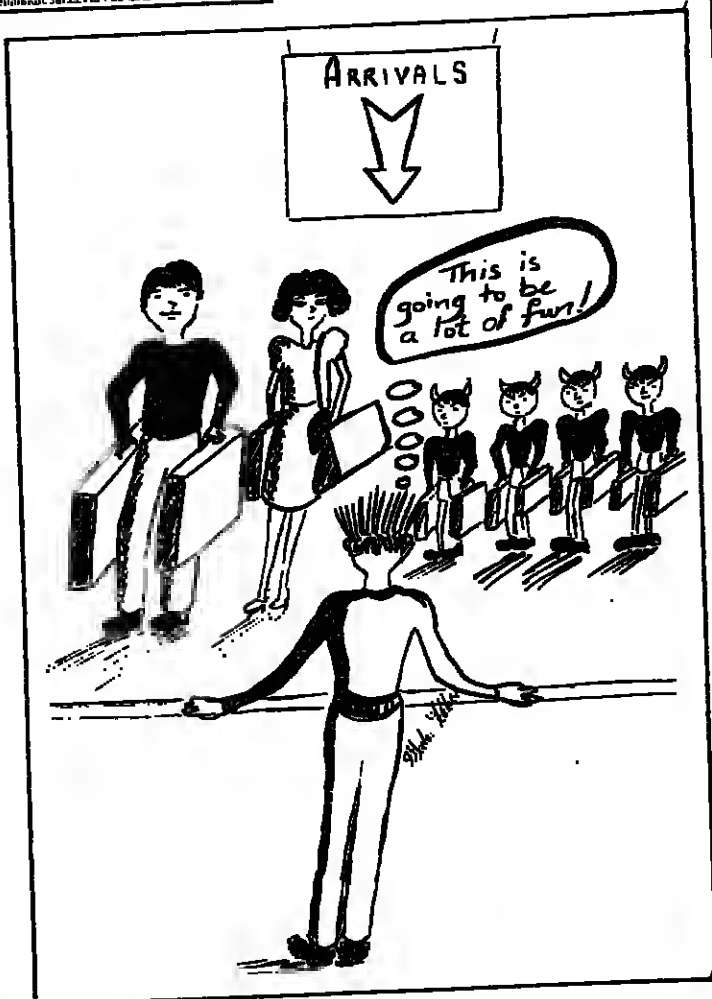
On the arrival date all six family members appear with luggage that includes anything and everything they may need until the next Halley's Comet... if they stay at your house that long. You worry how you will fit all their luggage into your car and they get offended because not all your family members are at the airport meeting them. Thus begins your nightmare. From now on your daily routine will become topsy-turvy. Very soon you will develop the jitters, you will feel uneasy at all hours of the day, and your privacy becomes a distant memory. You may not even recognise your own home.

When it comes to house guests, three days is the limit said one woman who has had successive "bouts" of house guests for the past two summers. "House guests are exactly like fish, after three days they stink," she said.

"I don't understand it," one quiet, usually patient man said. "It seems that as soon as the guest family enters our house each member angles at something in the house which becomes their speciality. One dominates the video and television, another specialises in keeping enough soft drinks in the fridge, and that is only giving a couple of examples. In short the guests make themselves at home even before I tell them they can," he said.

Other hosts have other concerns. "The guests vacationing at my house forget that I have work," said one male host. "And they stay up till all hours completely disregarding the fact that someone else lives in this house. They talk loudly and they gossip at the top of their lungs and of course they make plans for the next day. That is how, much to my chagrin I know they are staying yet one more day," he said.

"When they decide to go shopping, guess who has to drive them around town," one woman said. "Our guests' plan, practically take over," said one man. "They plan which TV channels we watch, when we watch them, and of course we can't sit in our favourite seats because the guests have claimed them and have long left indelible fruit-juice marks on them. Actually, watching TV becomes a test of



patience," he said.

"Guests become so frustrating that by the time the few days are over 50 days later, I usually have purple circles under my eyes, I have lost weight (possibly the only advantage to house guests if you are on a diet) and I start to get nasty ideas, such as murder, on my mind. Usually I cannot wait to squeeze them all in the car for the last time and take them to the airport," he said.

"Next time I get the dreaded phone call I am going to cut my tongue before saying 'you're coming for a few days, you are most welcome,'" one man said. "And if they insist they must come I am leaving the house altogether. I'll go to anywhere, maybe I'll even try my hand at being a house guest. Just once," he said.

The golden nightingale (Part Two)

By E. Yaghi

"No, mother," one replied. "We were forced to either fly or perish, so we flew! We flew into the forest and met all your friends. Mother, the forest is beautiful and we are free! We'll come again soon, but we must leave before that despicable woman comes again!"

The nightingale began to eat, but never sang, for she could not forget the cruelty of the rich man's mother. Soon, she began to witness the preparation for the wedding of the rich man. The servants bustled back and forth getting ready for the great day.

Finally, on the evening of the wedding day, after a big celebration, the wealthy man brought his wife to show her his golden nightingale. As she approached the cage, the nightingale saw the bird's long golden hair, almost the same colour as her own feathers. The bride was indeed, young and very beautiful.

More than ever, the nightingale longed for her cool forest home, for her young children, for the clear sweet water of the forest spring that rippled between the mossy rocks and for the honeysuckle that grew all around. She could almost taste the nectar of the honeysuckle, hear the hubbly spring and feel the cool air of the crisp pine scented forest. She imagined herself winging with her children above the clouds. Just then her wing bumped against the door of the cage and opened slightly. Amazed, she pushed the door further and seeing that her master was engrossed with his new bride, flew out on the balcony to take one last view of her prison and her vanity. She heard the rich man say as he turned and saw the empty cage. "Look, she's gone! But why would my lovely nightingale fly away? I gave her the best food and a beautiful cage. She had everything she could ever want. She must have known I loved her!"

"Yes, she was the most beautiful bird I have ever seen. Sure. But a word of caution. No matter how beautiful or gilded a cage or castle, birds, like people, will always want to be free. I hope you do not keep me captive as you have kept this poor bird, for I would surely die. How happy the poor creature must be to be free at last!"

And she was! Hearing these last human words, she escaped forever, the magnificent castle, her golden cage, her doting owner and his cruel mother and glided over the forest trees, singing in her most beautiful voice that rang through the forest. Gone was her conceit, her vanity. What good did beauty do her if she were a prisoner? She now knew the only true beauty was the wisdom of survival in the cool green forest with her children.

In part one of our story, the rich man's mother had been quite upset with her son's infatuation for a bird. She tried to convince him that he must get rid of his pest. But in

protest, her son stated, "Yes, mother. I have been thinking of marriage. And, no mother, I don't want to get rid of my golden nightingale. What have you got against her? She is not only beautiful, but it seems that she has been preparing a nest. I think she's going to lay some eggs."

"Splendid. We'll have more squawking birds around. Not enough one."

With this retort, the nightingale shrank in her cage. She had never felt unwanted in her forest home. As she had already prepared a nest from her own silky, golden feathers, she thought, "I must think as a mother now. Are my children to be hatched in captivity? I should have listened to my friends. A cage is still a cage no matter how beautiful. It is my vanity that caused my capture in the first place. How foolish I have been!"

Soon the nightingale laid two pale golden eggs. While she sat on her eggs, she began to long more and more for her forest home. One day as she sat thinking of soaring over the trees, the eggs hatched and out struggled two naked little birds who soon began to squeak weakly for food.

A few weeks passed and the birds grew a soft, golden down. They were almost the same colour as their mother.

Each time the grumpy, haughty mother passed, the nightingale would hear, "that's all we need. More birds! It wasn't enough one squawking. Now they are three. I should have fed her to the cat in the first place. I'll have to think of some way to get rid of them."

And she did. One day before her son came to join her on the balcony for their morning tea, she unbolted the cage door and clutched the two fledglings in her hand and threw them over the balcony. "There! That's that. Got rid of them at last. No more noise!"

The golden nightingale shrieked with horror. "My babies! They're dead! What is life without them? What is this cold cage without my children?" And with this, she fell on the floor of her cage full of grief and wept.

Later, still in shock, she heard the rich man say, "Mother, where are the fledglings? Have you seen them?" "Yes, I let them go. Enough squawking with one bird. Get rid of her too. Get married, I tell you. Have some children and forget this silly bird!"

The nightingale watched him slink out of the room and in sorrow thought, "I hate her. Why did she interfere? What does she want with my children? Why did she kill them? I am a prisoner in a castle of mad people. Where is my forest home and where are my friends?"

She refused to eat. She quit singing. Then, in her deepest agony, she heard a gentle flutter of wings. "I'm not in the mood for friends now," she said looking up and then her heart jumped. "My babies. I thought you were dead!"

August birthstone

The Peridot

Family — Is a magnesium iron silicate. Is of the mineralogical species — Olivine.

Colour — At its best is an olive green. Lesser varieties are a cloudy green.

Geographical sources — Burma, Ceylon, Red Sea, Norway and the U.S.

Legendary background — The word, peridot, is probably derived from the Arabic "faridat", which means precious stone. The ancients thought that the peridot had the power of conquering mental and physical timidity, and could also strengthen the nerves of the wearer. The 11th century philosopher, Marbode, suggested a luxurious form of nightlight. He maintained that the peridot should be set in gold, the metal of the sun, to cure the fear of the dark. The

Crusaders treasured these on their long absences from home, because they were meant to reinforce the wearer's faithfulness.

Qualities — Gladness, serenity and trust. Jewellery interpretations — During the early 19th century, upswart hair styles, with cascades of tiny ringlets on the nape of the neck, emphasised ears. Earrings of that time were long, in the chandelier style and showed off the peridot, in gold setting. Later in Victorian times, from 1860 to 1880, the peridot was featured in a somewhat unlovely design of the common housefly. The wings glittered with rose-cut diamonds, while the peridot was used to reproduce the body.

Today — Favourite designs are delicate clusters, or one large stone gold-set to give the peridot an added glow. Notable August birthdays — John Galsworthy, Ivan the Terrible, Czar of Russia.

Forcing children to grow up too soon

By Dr. Sue Dahdah

The pressure parents and educators exert on young children has now moved downwards so that a baby can become a failure at three or four years instead of six or seven as in the past.

Following are some notes taken from research done by noted psychologists and educators about this problem of forcing children to grow up too fast:

Barbara Day, professor of early childhood education at the University of North Carolina has written "effective kindergarten programmes incorporate academic content and skill development within a framework of appropriate experiential learning" (learning based on the experiences of children).

David Weikart of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation found that when formal instruction is pushed on children too early it causes social maladjustment. A study conducted over a period of twenty years, begun when two groups of children were three and four years old and followed them into late adolescence, found that those who had had the "direct instruction" approach (reading and writing) exhibited more delinquent behaviour than the students who were taught in open or child-centred schools.

David Elkind, a psychologist and author of *The Hurried Child* and *All Grown Up And No Place to Go* says that "educators and parents seem unable to appreciate the nature of how young children learn and the kinds of educational programmes that are most beneficial of them." He also makes the following interesting points:

— Some parents use their children as status symbols. They like to brag that their four-year-olds can read. Therefore the children are being exploited for the sake of the parents.

— It is parental need, not the child's that pushes children prematurely into competitive sports and academic achievement such as reading at age four or five.

— In a comparison of children forced into early reading and a group who were introduced to reading at a later age, it was found that any initial advantage had disappeared by the time the children had reached grade four.

— A follow-up made when the subjects of a study were young adolescents found that those who had been introduced late to reading were more enthusiastic, spontaneous readers than those who were forced to read early.

— Other studies suggest that when children are given the task of learning to read before they have the necessary mental abilities and maturity, they can develop long term learning difficulties.

— Children who learn to read because they want to are not disadvantaged since they are allowed to move at their own pace.

— Children should be challenged intellectually, but the challenge should be constructive, not destructive as when too much pressure is put on them.

In conclusion, I believe that books should be an important part of the young child's world, but they should be read to the child by an adult at first. When the child is ready, he will begin to read books quite naturally on his own. Preschoolers should be considered active learners who construct their own knowledge from activities they plan and carry out themselves in a creative environment with proper supervision by well-trained and experienced teachers.

Please, for the sake of our children, let's stop forcing them to grow up too soon by pressuring them into the world of competitive marks and evaluations. Enjoy your children. Play with them. Time passes so quickly as it is; they do not need for us to impose our adult behaviours upon them before they are ready.

Dr. Sue Dahdah is the director of the Abdul Hamid Sharaf School. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times WEEKENDER.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 1

8:30 The Family Man

Drive My Car

Jack is extremely annoyed about the dent on the car. It was his children, after all, who did it.

9:10 Outlaws

Madrid

As employees of a business company, the boys manage to unveil the truth about the company's true intentions.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Friday, Aug. 2

8:30 Night Court

The Birthday Visitor

It is Harold's birthday. When it becomes known, two people decided to do something about it, Billie and a thief.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Equalizer

Race Traitors

McCall has to become a member of a racist organisation, to be able to incriminate it and save the neighbourhood from ugly racism.

Saturday, Aug. 3

8:30 Kate And Allie

Louise In Love

Wining and dining would be the most assured way to invade a woman's heart. Louise wants to see if this is true, or not.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Easy Come Easy Go
Starring: Jacklyn Smith and Ralph Bellamy

Victor Baron, a professional con-man makes a lot of money on a deal, but then he gets killed and the millions mysteriously disappear.

Sunday, Aug. 4

8:30 Yes Minister

Skeleton In The Cupboard

The issue discussed here is the public's right to know.
9:10 Documentary — Assignment: Big Europe, Little Europe

10:00 News in English

10:20 Hunter

Finished Business

Just when Hunter and his colleague are on the verge of catching a criminal, they quarrel.

Monday, Aug. 5

8:30 Empty Nest

Barbara is suffering from



Angela Lansbury in *Murder She Wrote* Monday at 9:10

stress and therefore is at the mercy of her sister.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Steal Me A Story

In order, for Jessica, to solve a murder mystery, she turns into an actress.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Young Sherlock Holmes

Tuesday, Aug. 6

8:30 Perfect Strangers

The Men Who Knew Too Much

Every time Larry and Palki attempt to chase some criminals, they live to regret it.

8:55 Museums in Jordan

9:10 Our House

Witherspoon War

A slight misunderstanding between Gus and Jessie creates tension in the family and something is needed to be done about it.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Columbo

Lovely But Lethal

Vivica Scott, queen of cosmetics resorts to murder after her business goes downhill. A losing game, thanks to Columbo.

Wednesday, Aug. 7

8:30 A Kind Of Living

9:10 Silk Route To The Sea
Vietnam

The topic of this documentary deals with the ancient civilisations that created the rich archaeological finds in the Mekong Delta.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Mini Series

La Milliardiare

Gossip and gossipers

By Lara Philippi

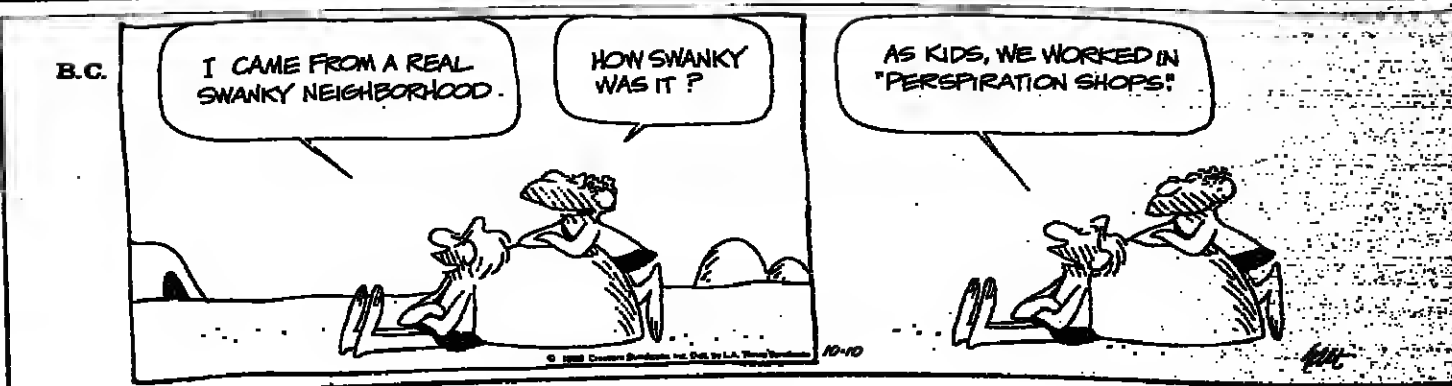
It is 11 a.m. A group of women get together for their morning coffee. And who's going to be the lucky (or unlucky) topic of the day?

After the first cup of coffee, they have surely zeroed in on a few persons, each adding in her comment on the situation while all listen. By the end of the session, it is over. The persons have been well analysed by the knowledgeable "morning coffee ladies" and each of them carries the news further as she goes home to make a few phonecalls and discusses the matters at hand.

At the same time, while it is time for the n-th coffee break, some men gather at work. They too busy themselves with spicing up a story or two, finding joy in the details. But what about the victims of such get-togethers? Where

are the facts? What will the added touches do to them? This is the birth of gossip.

Perhaps, however, we should pity not the victims, but rather the producers of such gossip. Look at it this way. Is it not sad that these persons have nothing better to do than to talk about others? This is what boredom and lack of ambition breed. They do not read, therefore they can't discuss literature. They hardly care for political news, or perhaps they don't understand them! They don't work and yet, they have all this free time so... they gossip to make their point in society. This doesn't stop here of course. There is always the competition for the most "disrupting" and therefore interesting piece of news, whether invented or true. This is the best their imagination can do. And this is the most that they want of life. This is the sad truth.



Room With A View team brings Howard's End to screen

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

ROTHERFIELD PEP- PARD, England — On the elegant front lawn of Peppard Cottage, Helena Bonham Carter giggles and plays catch, her long brown hair falling in ringlets.

Nearby, Anthony Hopkins paces, eager not to be late for that night's film premiere.

The 1740s cottage in Oxfordshire is the set of Howard's End, yet another movie adaptation of an E.M. Forster novel. It's a process at which Bonham Carter, among others, is becoming an old pro.

Helen Schlegel is her third Forster heroine on screen, following Lucy Honeychurch in *A Room With A View* (1985) and Caroline Abbott in *Where Angels Fear To Tread*

which opened in London on June 21.

Co-stars include Vanessa Redgrave, James Wilby, Emma Thompson, and Hopkins, who, as Hannibal the cannibal in *The Silence Of The Lambs*, has emerged as this screen season's most terrifying villain.

Hopkins, looking safely conventional in his Edwardian suit and moustache, said his current set of colleagues is "a very nice, easy company to work with."

But any further discussion of his part as Henry Wilcox, Forster's financially successful if imaginatively limited businessman, had to wait.

The actor was due to London, an hour or so away, for the gala British premiere of *The Silence Of The Lambs*. He left before producer Ismail Merchant's elaborate-

ly planned group photograph.

Vanessa Redgrave, who normally requires journalists to sign forms declaring they won't ask about her political and private concerns and demands a copy of the tape recording of the interview, remained unusually available throughout the afternoon.

She happily discussed the film, which reunites her with the producer-director team whose 1984 the Bostonians brought her an Oscar nomination for best actress.

"I'm seeing quite a lot of old friends, somehow or other," Redgrave said of the Howard's End, due for U.S. release in February.

What drew her to the film? "It was the novel and E.M. Forster and Tony Hopkins, who I knew was going to be in it, and the part, Mrs.

Wilcox," she said. "I like this character very much."

The film is based on Forster's 1910 novel about two families and the English country house. Howard's End, that ultimately links them.

The 54-year-old Redgrave plays Ruth Wilcox, wife to Hopkin's Henry. She bridges the ambitious, empire-building world view of her husband and children with the more humane, liberal attitudes of the Schlegel sisters, Margaret (Thompson) and Helen (Bonham Carter).

Prunella Scales, TV's Sybil Fawcett from *Fawlty Towers*, plays Aunt Juley. Sam West, Miss Scales' son, plays the doomed working-class Leonard Bast.

Howard's End may wear its art-house pedigree on its sleeve but it is not, insist its

creators, a kind of Room With A View II.

"It's much more interesting, a much bigger canvas, richer in character than any of the Forster books," said Merchant.

Besides Room With A View, which won three Oscars, Merchant and director James Ivory in 1986 filmed Forster's novel *Maurice*, published posthumously.

The most recent Merchant-Ivory collaboration was last year's acclaimed *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge*, starring Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. Merchant produced this year's *The Ballad Of The Sad Cafe*, starring Redgrave and directed by British actor Simon Callow.

Merchant said his screenwriter, Ruth Prawer Jhabvu-

la, had been interested in filming Howard's End long before they made Room With A View.

"Room is a much simpler novel and much more accessible," Merchant said of Forster's 1908 novel about Britons on vacation in Italy.

Howard's End has little of the picture postcard appeal that made Room With A View an international hit.

Merchant, describing the book as "tonally more complex," said his team was now much more attuned to what Forster's delicacies are. We can bring out his finer qualities.

The Forster oeuvre is almost depleted — only one novel, *The Longest Journey*, remains to be filmed. Merchant said Howard's End is the "finale" of the series of screen adaptations.

America-style soap portrays rich, steamy Riviera life

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — Take some plunging necklines and a sultry brunette. Add a feuding, aristocratic clan, a few social climbers and a lovesick Italian. Sprinkle in sex and scandal, and set it against a sun-drenched, Mediterranean landscape.

The result is *Riviera*, a 210-million-franc (nearly \$40 million) soap opera, made with American savoir-faire. It debuted in early July on French television.

Billed as a rival to Hollywood's *Santa Barbara*, a runaway hit in France for the past five years, *Riviera* is a unique undertaking in French TV programming.

More than 150 half-hour episodes have been shot since last August, when European directors, cameramen, technicians, cast and writers began learning the tricks of the soap trade under a handful of Hollywood veterans.

"When we started we wouldn't finish until midnight. Now we're through by 6 p.m.," said John Valente, the American supervising director.

He said the first segment drew high ratings, despite mixed critical reviews.

Calling it an example of "European determination and American know-how," the daily *Le Figaro* said the introduction of the main characters was stilted, but added, "Paris wasn't built in a day either."

The 60-minute cast, which includes some well-known French stars such as Xavier Deluc and Henri Serre, does not have what Valente calls the "big hair-perfect teeth-thick makeup" look favoured in Hollywood soaps.

"We wanted the show to have a European look and feel, so we chose a cast that was both beautiful and distinctive. We wanted attractive people who looked real," Valente said.

Some viewers remarked on the resemblance between Consuelo de Havilland, a dimpled, Franco-American brunette who plays Clara Marquies, and Joan Collins in her younger days.

In a first-episode wedding scene shot in a vaulted medieval chapel, De Havilland appears in a sexy cocktail dress designed by Christian Lacroix.

Riviera was the brainchild of advertising executives in

the Paris offices of Lintas Worldwide, a subsidiary of the New York-based advertising conglomerate Interpublic. It is produced by EC Television, another Interpublic subsidiary responsible for launching European equivalents of popular American game shows.

Riviera is not the first attempt to introduce the American-style soap to France, though it is the first to rely so heavily on American expertise.

Chateaufort, about a wealthy newspaper heiress, started strong in the early 1980s, but was abandoned after leading lady Chantal Nobel was critically injured in an accident.

Riviera is performed in English to ensure worldwide distribution, then dubbed into French, Spanish, German and Italian.

For Valente, getting the cast to perform naturally in English was the biggest challenge.

"In the early episodes the actors had a frozen quality about them, which slowed the pace," he said.

Another problem was convincing the French their work did not have to meet feature film standards.

"The French are perfectionists. I kept telling them we're not doing a half-hour Emmy Award special. This is a business."

Written by Leona Blair, an author of best-selling romances who spent 18 years on the Cote d'Azur, *Riviera* revolves around the De Courcy clan, owners of a famous perfume company.

The first episode sets up a clash of generations, with the proud patriarch, Laurent De Courcy, at odds with his headstrong son, Christophe, about an advertising campaign.

Their playground is Cap Riviera, a fictitious promontory between Nice and Monaco. Stunning aerial views in the credits include the steep, winding mountain road where Monaco's Princess Grace died in a car crash.

Valente said the show will be steamier than its American equivalents.

"We made a decision against nudity, but we'll show different kinds of love — tender, youthful, or passionate. Of course, there will be people bed, before or after lovemaking. But it'll be more titillating than explicit," he said.

Dali's Surrealist universe unveiled in Paris

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — Salvador Dali's legendary weirdness has found a surreal showcase in Montmartre, a stone's throw from the Spanish artist's first studio in Paris.

Dali's Universe, on display at the newly refurbished Espace Montmartre, features 25 pieces of sculpture and 300 illustrations of literary masterpieces, including Sigmund Freud's *Moses And Monotheism* and Rabelais' medieval classics *Gargantua and Pantagruel*.

Genius or provocateur, Dali was one of the century's most controversial artists.

"Surrealism is me," he said when asked to define the movement which sought to free art from the trappings of reality and representation.

For Dali, who painted his own mustache on the Mona Lisa, art juxtaposed diverse images to capture the bizarre, nightmarish ramblings of the mind.

"Dali's Universe," spread out over two levels of this former historical museum, shows off the artist's sculptural and graphic talent as well as his passion for literature.

His bronze *Alice In Wonderland*, executed from 1977-84, is a slim-waisted girl with curled roses for hair. Her fingers grip a jump-rope raised above her head.

Venus De Milo With Drawers, a sensual, life-size nude with empty drawers coming out of her body, thumbs its nose at academic art.

Michelin's Slave, a tiny woman's body imprisoned between two automobile tires, sends Dali's message that art is dominated by technology.

"Sculpture was very important to Dali because it repre-

sented the culmination of his life's work, as well as the synthesis of his major ideas and symbols," said Jean-Jacques Biagini, director of the Espace Montmartre.

Indeed, the Dali world, on show for at least one year, is familiar. The drooping clocks are there, along with a hallucinogenic bull fighter and a giant snail.

Less well-known, however, are the 300 illustrations — pen and ink drawings, lithographs and watercolours — which the artist executed throughout his long career.

They include illustrations of Cervantes' *Don Quixote*

and La Fontaine's fables. Also on show are detailed illustrations of the Marquis de Sade's erotic tales.

The works are on loan from the Stratton Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in Geneva which paid for the 3 million-franc (about \$500,000) staging.

Mr. Biagini said Dali, who had long dreamed about gathering his sculpture in one place, would have liked the Montmartre setting.

Lights fade in and out, focusing on various parts of sculpture. Strange background music fills the black, white and gray exhibition gal-

eries, and Dali's own voice can be heard, barely comprehensible as he talks about art.

Dali discovered Montmartre in the 1920s and worked in a studio overlooking the city.

He wrote and illustrated pamphlets supporting Tristan Tzara, founder of the Dada Movement and Andre Breton, father of Surrealism, in their campaign to win seats in the 1920 legislative elections.

Mr. Biagini said Dali was "creative and productive" up until the last years of his life. But his health began to decline when his wife, Gala, died in 1982. He died in 1985.

Celtic treasures — a lesson for the new Europeans

By Frances D'Emilio
The Associated Press

VENICE — They could offer a lesson for the new Europe, those first Europeans of more than 2,000 years ago.

While the Celts' exquisitely rich culture marked them as one people from the northern plains to the Mediterranean, from Iberia to Asia Minor, they were politically divided. As a result, they were done in by expanding Germanic tribes and by the Romans, as Latin students who stoically slogged through Julius Caesar's "Gallic wars" might recall.

More than 2,200 glories from the Celtic past — and perhaps something for the "new Europeans" to reflect upon — have been assembled in Venice's canalside Palazzo Grassi for viewing through Dec. 8.

Barry Raftery, a Celtic expert at the University of Dublin and one of the exhibit curators, said the Celts symbolise European unity. A modern-day Celt, he prefers to spell the word with a K and pronounce it with a hard sound.

They "had a singular culture ... almost identical treatment of ornaments, weapons, burial customs," Raftery said.

"But the Celts never politically unified. There was a series

of kingdoms. Had they unified, there's no question things would have been different."

Since the continental Celts left no writing behind, much of what filtered down through the ages were descriptions by their Roman and Greek contemporaries. No wonder, then, that the Celts were long regarded as a race of tall, sturdy folk, since the Celts making the first and lasting impressions were warriors, the best the tribes could marshal for battle.

Archaeologists eventually concluded that the Celts were not one race at all, but one culture. In the last dozen

years or so, new finds refined their understanding of differences and similarities among the many tribes.

"There wasn't any one find or discovery," said Raftery, in a telephone interview from his Dublin home, but "an accumulation of new finds, new graves ... such as the one near Stuttgart with a fantastic amount of material."

The tomb, under a mound 32-metres wide, is believed to have been that of a Celtic prince, laid to rest on a bronze bed.

"It's all come together in this exhibition for the first time — and possibly the last time," said Raftery.

"Persuading more than 200 museums to give up their best pieces, especially during the summer tourist season ... is a big sacrifice."

Many pieces come from museums in Eastern Europe, now eager to get in on the Euro-unity movement.

The exhibit begins with the Dying Gaul, a Roman copy of a Greek sculpture celebrating victory over the Celts in Galatia, and for the Romans and Greeks, triumph over a barbarian culture. But moving through the exhibit, visitors pass through a world that makes Greek and Roman civilisation almost seem dull.

Celtic art is fantastic, with

lots of use of bizarre figures that seem to have come from haunting dreams. The exhibit's symbol is an animal-like monster face on a bronze amphora found in what is now Czechoslovakia.

Art for the Celt was interwoven with religion, the province of the druids, the mysterious priests of the oak groves.

Geometrical patterns and floral motifs on housewares and jewelry are exquisite and can be marvelled at down to the tiniest swirl and squiggle in one room where each object is encased in a column with a magnifying glass to peer through.

There is agreement that fakes are widespread. Some experts say a substantial portion of paintings in U.S. museums are of questionable origin.

Judge Sauret noted that Fernand Legros, France's most famous dealer in forgeries, made millions selling impressionist paintings and etchings in the United States.

But the problem is centuries-old and goes beyond borders. The Pompidou Centre in Paris once bought 10 fake Mondrians, huge abstracts painted on canvases stolen from his studio. The Louvre was forced to change the attributions of 170 works in its permanent collection between 1958 and 1972.

Forged art works — high return at low risk

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — The Mona Lisa's quizzical smile may be too familiar to tempt a forger, but experts say skilled, unscrupulous copycats are victimising modern masters with virtual impunity in a boom market for fakes.

In recent years, dozens of paintings "signed" by Matisse, Giacometti, Gris, Utrillo and others have accumulated in government warehouses around France.

Despite certificates of authenticity and, often, the good faith of their owners, court-appointed experts have determined they are fakes.

Some ultimately are destroyed. Yet others, through a strange twist in French law, quickly end up back on the market, fetching high prices.

In a country that takes pride in preserving its heritage, the fate of these forgeries is a paradox. Alain Sauret, senior judge at the Paris court who has handled dozens of art fraud cases, calls it a scandal.

Experts say the fakes ori-

ginate in several countries, but that France — one of the world's major centres for legitimate art transactions — also is probably the main centre for sales of fakes.

They say the volume of the French market is easier for fakes to escape unwanted attention, and the law, as currently applied, lessens risks for sellers who can make a case that they acted in good faith when trying to market a fake.

Judge Sauret recalled how police confiscated the same fake Matisse three times in 20 years.

"In the mid-1950s, it sold for 1,000 francs (about \$200). By the mid-1970s, it had skyrocketed to several million dollars," he said.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Sauret was well-known for ensuring the fakes were not put back into circulation. On his orders, many were destroyed, while others were returned to the legitimate artists or their heirs.

"Today, the current practice is to give the fakes back to the individual who put

them up for sale as long as there is evidence of good faith," he said. "And, of course, the fraud continues. It's a complete scandal."

If an artist wants the fake destroyed, Judge Sauret said, he must file suit as a civil party, an expensive, time-consuming process.

Christine Courrege, the attorney who represents the son of Juan Gris, said her client was so disgusted by current applications of the law that he has abandoned attempts to retrieve fakes.

"He's sick of seeing the same fake painting resurface every two years," he said.

Denise Gaudel, a Paris lawyer who represents several often-copied artists, said the law actually promotes forgery.

"It puts fake art back in the hands of crooked dealers and experts. The result is that honest people are getting stripped clean," she said.

She said Sauret's policies enabled police to study forgery techniques, in some cases leading to dismantling of underground networks.

Unclaimed fakes, along

with stolen property and other assorted judicial evidence, are stored in huge warehouses managed by the Justice Department.

After three years, Gaudel said, they become public property, and contrary to intended government policy, are sent to the Domaines, a branch of the Finance Ministry which sells them at auction.

She accused government officials of putting them up for sale without properly identifying them as fakes.

Paul Charlot, deputy bureau chief at the Domaines, denied the accusation. He said it was against department policy to sell paintings which courts had determined were fakes.

Gaudel has drafted a new law concerning fakes and submitted it to the Culture Ministry.

"We need a text which would permit fakes to be destroyed without having to move mountains ... a law which would extend the three-year limit after which fakes become public property," she said.

Few forgers are caught and prosecuted — Ms. Courrege said she knew of only two

sent to prison in the past 12 years. Experts have no firm estimates of how many fakes are in circulation, but they say many of the latest versions originate at studios in northern Italy.

"I don't know whether there are more nowadays than in the past, or whether we're just getting better at identifying them," Ms. Gaudel said.

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Physiotherapy and psychology for children in pain

By Sibylle Kautz

YRONIC pain is far from unusual in children. Half have occasional tension-related headaches and about 15 per cent have serious headaches and migraine that require treatment.

Yet adults often don't take children's complaints of suffering from pain seriously or don't even notice them for far too long.

One problem is that infants in particular can next to never tell just where it hurts. They tend to feel pain somewhere indefinite in the stomach rather than where it originates.

The younger they are, the harder they find it to communicate. A change in behaviour is often the only sign of pain, doctors and parents were told at the first Child Pain Symposium, held in Oberhausen.

Pediatricians, cancer specialists, anaesthetists, psychologists and members of an Essen parents' group that helps children suffering from cancer answered questions asked by families with

children suffering from pain-related complaints.

Children with cancer or rheumatism, for instance, must often spend lengthy spells in hospital but, as a number of parents pointed out, too few hospitals have facilities to allow mothers or next of kin to room in.

Yet the experts are agreed that parents have a most important part to play in helping children to cope with pain. The mere presence of someone they know and love helps them to bear painful medical checks.

Another helpful approach is for parents to join their children in learning pain alleviation and control techniques. Physicians and psychologists have devised a number of them over the past 10 to 15 years. Some are most effective and avoid the use of drugs.

Progressive muscle relaxation is one such technique. Specific groups of muscles are first tensed up, then consciously, deliberately, completely relaxed.

This preventive measure mainly helps children with

tension-related headaches, but it can only be expected to be of any use if the technique is regularly practised at home.

Other relaxation techniques such as autogenic training or biofeedback can also be learnt by children and used by them to reduce pain.

The mere certainty that there is something they can do to help themselves is an enormous relief for children who suffer from recurring pain such as headaches or rheumatism, said Bonn psychologist Beate Lehn.

Psychological distraction techniques are particularly suitable for use with infants.

They can be used to reduce fear of pain — the pain of having a blood sample taken, for instance, — and to reduce the level of pain actually felt.

The idea is to try and draw the child's attention to something else, such as a pretty picture or a story. At Wuppertal Children's Hospital special aids are used to stimulate the child's imagination.

Children are told to put on an imaginary magic glove and concentrate so much on their hands that fear and pain take a backseat role, said Dr. Raymond Pothmann.

There are also special battery powered devices, he

said, that administer minute and totally harmless electric shocks which still pain.

Electrodes are stuck to the skin near the point where pain occurs. The electric power generated by the battery tingles and itches, stimulating nerve cells that impede the sensation of pain.

Six-year-olds can handle the device, which is about the size of a Walkman, setting their own "tingle rate" and power output.

Dr. Pothmann told the symposium the device had proved extremely useful in connection with painful lumbar punctures and tension-related headaches.

It was best used to relieve chronic pain caused by nerves or muscles, yet few general practitioners were familiar with it even though German health insurance schemes paid for the cost of treatment.

Children with cancer can nowadays often be treated successfully, but treatment can be very painful. They usually need extra painkillers, at times even powerful morphine-based drugs.

A Minden children's doctor, H. Wolschner, told the symposium that statistics published three years ago showed only one child in 10 in

pain was given painkilling drugs, as opposed to 90 per cent of adults.

Fears of morphine addiction are still widespread, so a clear distinction must be drawn between morphine abuse such as occurs among drug addicts and the use of morphine as a painkiller, said anaesthetist Jürgen Sorge of Hanover medical college.

A serious risk of addiction arose when large quantities of morphine were maintained at irregular intervals, the blood and brain can be strongly affected, if only for a moment.

People who inject mor-

phine straight into their bloodstream in this way tend to feel "high" and may become addicted.

As a painkiller, in contrast, low doses are administered in tablet form at regular intervals, thereby ensuring a constant, low blood morphine level and making the risk of addiction much lower.

What is more, Dr. Sorge said, people suffering from chronic pain had run out of the body's own supply of morphine, so morphine treatment could arguably be seen as a mere replacement for this natural shortfall. — Die Welt.

'Total artificial heart will exist within 20 years'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A mechanical pump totally implanted in the body to assist the heart will be ready for clinical testing next year and a complete artificial heart will be developed within 20 years, a committee of experts have reported.

A study by the Independent Institute of Medicine said development of devices either to assist the heart or to totally replace it offers the promise of longer life for thousands of patients with terminal heart disease. It recommended that the Nation-

al Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) continue funding research.

"We felt the development of the device is in the public interest since it has the potential to benefit a significant number of Americans," said Dr. Neil R. Powe of Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, one of 17 members of the study committee.

He said the "birth of the artificial heart is near," but he cautioned that it will be expensive and called for the government to develop a system that assures access to the new technology in a fair and equitable way.

Dr. John R. Hogness, president emeritus of the University of Washington, Seattle, and chairman of the committee said the artificial heart pump devices being developed are far more sophisticated than the mechanical pumps that have been used experimentally in the past.

"We are talking about totally implanted devices that do not have a tether to the outside," said Hogness.

Earlier devices were hooked up to outside equipment and had tubes or wires running into the body.

Dr. Claude Lenfant, director of the NHLBI, said his agency, which had requested the independent study, was "pleased with the report."

There is no doubt in my mind that we will eventually have a device that works properly," he said at a news conference where the report was released.

The report said a permanently implanted ventricular assist device, or VAD, which would mechanically take over the work of the heart's major pumping chamber, will be tested in 1992 and will likely receive U.S. Food and Drug Administration FDA approval for general use by the late 1990s.

A total artificial heart, or TAH, however, is not likely to be approved by the FDA until 2005 to 2010.

"If these devices fulfill their developers' expectations, both the benefits to the patients receiving them and the technology's ultimate impact on the nation's health care system will be dramatic," the study said.

Neither the VAD or the TAH will be developed without federal research support, however, it said.

"Heart disease is the leading cause of death in this country," the study said. "Keeping this in mind, we feel strongly that work on TAHs and different types of VAD should continue into 1995 or

1996" when the programme could be re-evaluated.

Doctors will learn more about the use of artificial heart pumps from the clinical trials of the VAD, and this should help in developing the total heart replacement, the study said.

It said between 58,000 and 70,000 patients annually could be candidates for the use of some type of mechanical heart device. Between 10,000 and 20,000 patients will have conditions that would require the total artificial heart.

When the devices are ready for use, the committee estimated that the ventricular assist device would cost about \$50,000 and the total artificial heart about \$100,000. The cost to implant the devices, including hospital and physician care, would be an additional \$100,000.

ing said the United States has stepped up its sampling of food from the danger area. They added that it would make sense for countries with fewer testing facilities to restrict imports.

Cholera causes severe diarrhea that can quickly kill its victims by dehydration and the loss of vital minerals such as potassium.

The bacteria responsible are spread in the excrement of infected people, contaminating food and water. It can move rapidly in countries with poor sanitation. In countries with good sanitation the disease is hard to spread.

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Vegetarians live longer

VEGETARIANS have a significantly higher life expectancy than the population as a whole, according to the findings of long-term research by the German Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg.

The latest issue of the centre's magazine, *cinblick*, says vegetarians are markedly less prone to illness too.

The survey covered a period of nearly 11 years. It involved 858 vegetarian men and 1,046 women, of whom 111 men and 114 women died during the review period.

Statistically speaking, there would have been twice as many deaths among a corresponding group of average Germans of the same age over the same period.

Vegetarians were found to die only half as often of heart and circulation complaints as the general mortality tables indicated. Cancer deaths among men were down by the same marked extent, while among women the figure was 25 per cent lower.

Interim findings published five years ago indicated that

vegetarians had a higher life expectancy. The full findings are said to bear out this longevity factor.

The positive influence of a vegetarian diet on life expectancy was reaffirmed by the fact that roughly 25 per cent fewer long-term vegetarians (who had not eaten meat for 20 years or more) died during the review period than more recent converts to a vegetarian diet.

The 1,904 volunteers were not all strict vegetarians or vegans. Some occasionally

ate meat and fish. But most were physically active and nearly all were non-smokers. The authors of the Heidelberg report concede that their findings do not establish a direct link between diet and life expectancy.

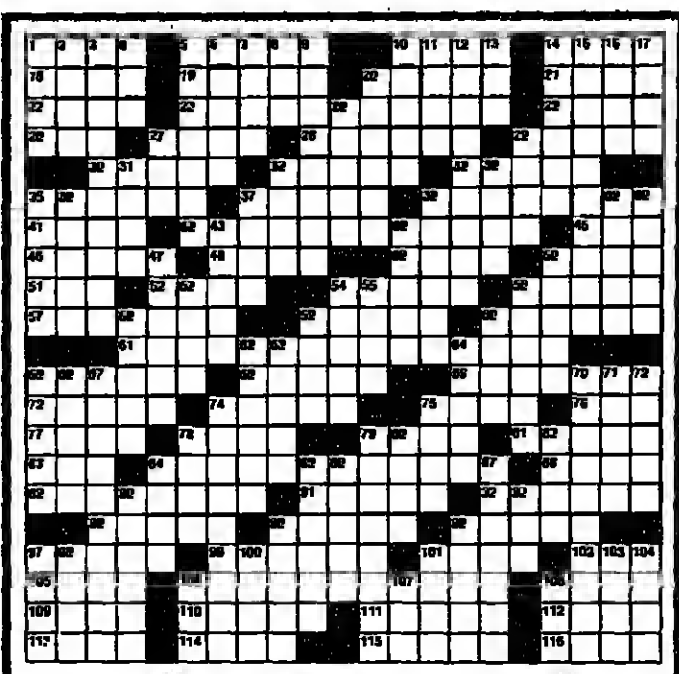
But vegetarians eat less fat and more fibre, they have lower blood pressure, a lower cholesterol count and weigh less than others of their age. They thus steer clear of cardiac and circulatory complaint risk factors. — Stuttgarter Zeitung.

Crossword Weekend

SORRY — NO DAY OFF
By Barbara Gordon

ACROSS
1 Tennis shots
5 Bluetongue
10 New personal
14 Biblical victim
18 Med. sch. subj.
19 River to Rio
20 Certain Alaskan
21 Blabber one
22 Nutty
23 Prescription
24 Extremely
25 On to the move
26 Russ. playwright
28 Beethoven
30 Loony deposit
32 Bit of a rash
35 Lovers of music
36 Cat kin

DOWN
1 Last
2 Even keel
3 Conductor
4 Piqued
5 Quick thrust by
6 Residue
7 Equipment
8 "To — is hammer"
9 Informative
10 Priced
11 Coin for Carlos
12 Non-residents at the pool in Eng.
13 Aves.
14 Indifferent to proper conduct
15 Pick-up men?
16 She. Fr.
17 Spokes of the ring
20 Tropical tree



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Luckless hapless tourist became hopelessly lost in huge shopping mall's busy parking lot.
2. Several easy tipoffs or clues for humans solving cryptograms: a, I, that, little.
3. Ghoulish grisly story: Crashed chimpanzee keeper raved too on dark and drizzly midnight spree.
4. Order: First help fix the bad lid on Pandora's box.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. YOJOMRXC TL B ACYS ZTTEQS FBG TY
ZTFBG OW EQC WERNOI NYTAOGMC TL
LTTW. —By Gordon Miller

2. TAIU TIC FU RIDDLE TALK UFGK
BIWICFUL BWIOLE FXW ZLWBG UXIEFZID
AKCUP FLIL BOLL. —By Ed Buddenist

3. ZEPRE DE WFNUPUN RU DYM TRDDMT
AFUM. ERWD RK ZW OEM KFEWD
EMIZPENT DE WIZFUD ON DYM WROAA
BEFUD. MNOT. —By E.L. Livingston

4. MPXOP BZXQX KYZQXQMX PQE
STUPOF KIDSTUF YZ M KMIIDDU. —By Barbara J. Rupp

Diagramless 19 X 19, By Harold B. Conant

ACROSS
1 Pie — mode
2 Religious image
3 Lists of candidates
4 Crabs
11 Holds dear
14 Rig
17 Actress Gless
20 18-wheelers
21 Irene of the screen
22 Mischief guy

DOWN
1 Save or Woody
2 Mythomane
3 Opposed
4 Hardy novel
5 Glittered
6 Metastadium
7 Nourished
8 Shaking
9 Slow-witted one
10 Cockle
12 Throw off
13 Fission

24 — garden
25 Earth. prof.
26 Coward
31 Wine flask
32 Merganser's
33 Sp. munster
34 Of a certain
35 Sp. munster
36 Flavourful bud
37 America
38 Say the handle
39 Memoranda
40 Persons non —
41 Village on the Hudson
42 Fiercest
43 Fiercest
44 Fiercest
45 Jacques in a song
46 House school
47 Subterfuge
48 Misfortunes

49 Underpants
50 Like an old
51 — Domingo
52 Cornucopia
53 The Red
54 — Vegas
55 Experiment
56 Madison Ave.
57 Figure
58 Courtroom figure
59 Taka on cargo
60 Uncontrollable kid

61 — Antoinette
62 Band instrument
63 Native of Copenhagen
64 Clipped
65 "Time and —"
66 Observe
67 Frog
68 Sprinkled
69 Horse
70 Rotten
71 Cartoonist
72 Peter

Electromagnetic field therapy helps body to regain control of itself

By Christian Friedl

PATIENT Hubert K. has cancer of the tongue. Barring magnetic field therapy at Erlangen University tooth, mouth and jaw clinic, amputation seems the next, inevitable move.

Dr. Ulrich Randall takes the patient's pulse, which controls a magnetic field, attached to the neck, that emits low frequency transmission in time with the patient's pulse during treatment.

The aim of magnetic field therapy is to influence the cancer patient's own magnetic field. Within a week Hubert K.'s condition has improved so dramatically that less drastic surgery is felt to suffice.

After his operation the patient can speak again, having retained his tongue. Is magnetic field therapy the shape of medical treatment to come or is it just a welcome coincidence?

If it were mere coincidence, Dr. Randall could mention a few more. At the Erlangen clinic magnetic field treatment has cured a number of patients suffering from trigeminal neuralgia, an extremely painful facial nerve condition.

The Bahlsen Foundation has great hopes of electric shock therapy. It is bankrolling basic research linked, at

Erlangen, to a unique clinical trials facility.

The idea of using electromagnetic fields to treat patients is nothing new. In the early 1970s Robert Becker, an American orthopaedic specialist, discovered the control mechanism by which salamanders can regenerate severed limbs.

He measured negative direct current at the wounds and scars. His sensational findings shook the foundations of the strictly chemical view in which all physical processes are seen as being controlled by biomolecules.

Research scientists now surmise that a command centre in a biogenetically antique part of the brain supervises arrangements.

If more were known about how the system works the way would be clear for an electrical approach to medical treatment, with much less resort to drugs or surgery.

It might be possible to heal wounds fast or even for patients to regenerate limbs — or at least for the mere idea to be more than wishful thinking.

But we still know far too little about how magnetic fields work in this connection. The Erlangen treatment can be seen to work, but Dr. Randall is distinctly vague about the scientific explanation.

He refers to microcircula-

tion, by which we are to understand a smoothly functioning metabolism in the smallest parts of the human body, such as blood circulation in the fingertips.

If this microcirculation is interrupted or upset, the patient is said to feel chronic pain. What then matters is to stimulate molecules in the part of the body where the pain is located.

"Just as a physiotherapist stimulates a stiff limb by means of movement," he says, "the magnetic field acts as a magnetic stimulant on the pain zone."

Yet despite the far-reaching consequences of this pioneering work with this "magnetic physiotherapy" the Erlangen project's work is little known and has gained scant acclaim in the world at large.

That is hardly surprising in as much as alternative electromagnetic medicine clashes with the commercial interests of pharmaceutical companies that are marketing more and more drugs.

Dr. Randall will hear nothing of electromagnetic medicine being dismissed as humbug merely because its results have yet to be fully explained by the medical profession.

"If Edison had had to prove that a light-bulb worked before he was allowed to design and construct one," he says, "we would still be in the

dark."

Besides, the new discipline can rest assured that electromagnetic fields play many key roles in the body.

"Were it not for nerves through which electric impulses pulsate, we would not be able to think, we would be unable to respond to stimuli and we would have no conscious minds."

"Every chemical reaction is based on the reciprocal effect of charged particles. Each cell has an electric potential. Many animals have electric organs..."

Man may be one of them. British biologist Robin Baker of Manchester University certainly claims to have found one in the nasal sinuses.

Electromedicine stands to gain momentum from the fact that it aims to help a sick body to regain control of itself rather than adopting a steamroller approach.

It can thus readily be incorporated in a complex pattern of treatment. Dr. Randall doesn't just give patients magnetic field therapy; he holds long talks with them, draws up diets and tries to identify all harmful influences.

Two of them are, perhaps, a foregone conclusion. "I have yet to treat a cancer patient," he says, "who didn't drink or smoke."

Nürnberg Nachrichten

Peace conference set for October

(Continued from page 1)

marks a turn in once-hostile relations between the two superpowers towards a more cooperative approach to world problems. After working in concert to force Iraq out of Kuwait, Washington and Moscow now hope to oversee a settlement of the 43-year Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Shamir's spokesman Yossi Achmeir said Wednesday the Israeli government was not willing to consider accepting a Palestinian delegate from Arab Jerusalem or making any other concession.

"Any attempt to get an East Jerusalem delegate in through the front door or the back door will not be accepted by us," Mr. Achmeir said on Israeli army radio.

He added that the government refuses "any compromise on this issue or any concession that can be seen or is liable to be seen as a concession by Israel."

He also said U.S. officials "agreed with us that Israel will not be able to sit across from representatives it doesn't accept."

Mr. Achmeir said: "I cannot comment on the contents of Israel's answer. Certainly Secretary Baker will hear it tomorrow if indeed tomorrow there will be an answer."

Pressed by a radio interviewer on whether Mr. Baker would get an answer, Mr. Achmeir said: "There are thoughts, ideas, but the fact that (Mr. Baker) is coming tomorrow shows there is certainly some progress."

tainly some progress."

Mr. Shamir's spokesman confirmed that the question of who would represent the Palestinians remained the biggest sticking point and said the negotiations with Washington on this were not over.

"The talks with Mr. Baker will continue... and we hope they will help us to move towards a conference," spokesman Avi Pazner said.

Palestinian representative Hana Ashrawi, who has met Mr. Baker on previous visits, said the fate of the conference still hung in the balance.

She said Palestinians demanded the right to choose their own representatives to peace talks.

"We do not want to compromise any further," she said.

Ms. Ashrawi said Palestinian leaders had not yet discussed whether they would meet Mr. Baker, who arrives on a 24-hour visit on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Baker will also go to Tunis, where the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has its headquarters, and to Morocco.

Mr. Shamir, eager to avoid blame for undermining the delicate diplomacy of its main ally and backer, has hinted he would say yes to Washington.

But Mr. Shamir fiercely opposes the cornerstone of the U.S. plan — that the Arabs would make peace with Israel in exchange for the occupied territories.

But the 75-year-old prime minister has shifted the focus of his opposition onto less central

issues such as Palestinian representation.

"We are still waiting for an answer on this which will satisfy us," Mr. Shamir said. "The composition of the (Palestinian) delegation sounds procedural but for us it is substantive, we are not going to change."

Mr. Baker's inclusion of Tunisia on his itinerary prompted speculation in Moscow that he might try to devise some sort of formula that would satisfy the PLO, whose leadership is based in Tunis.

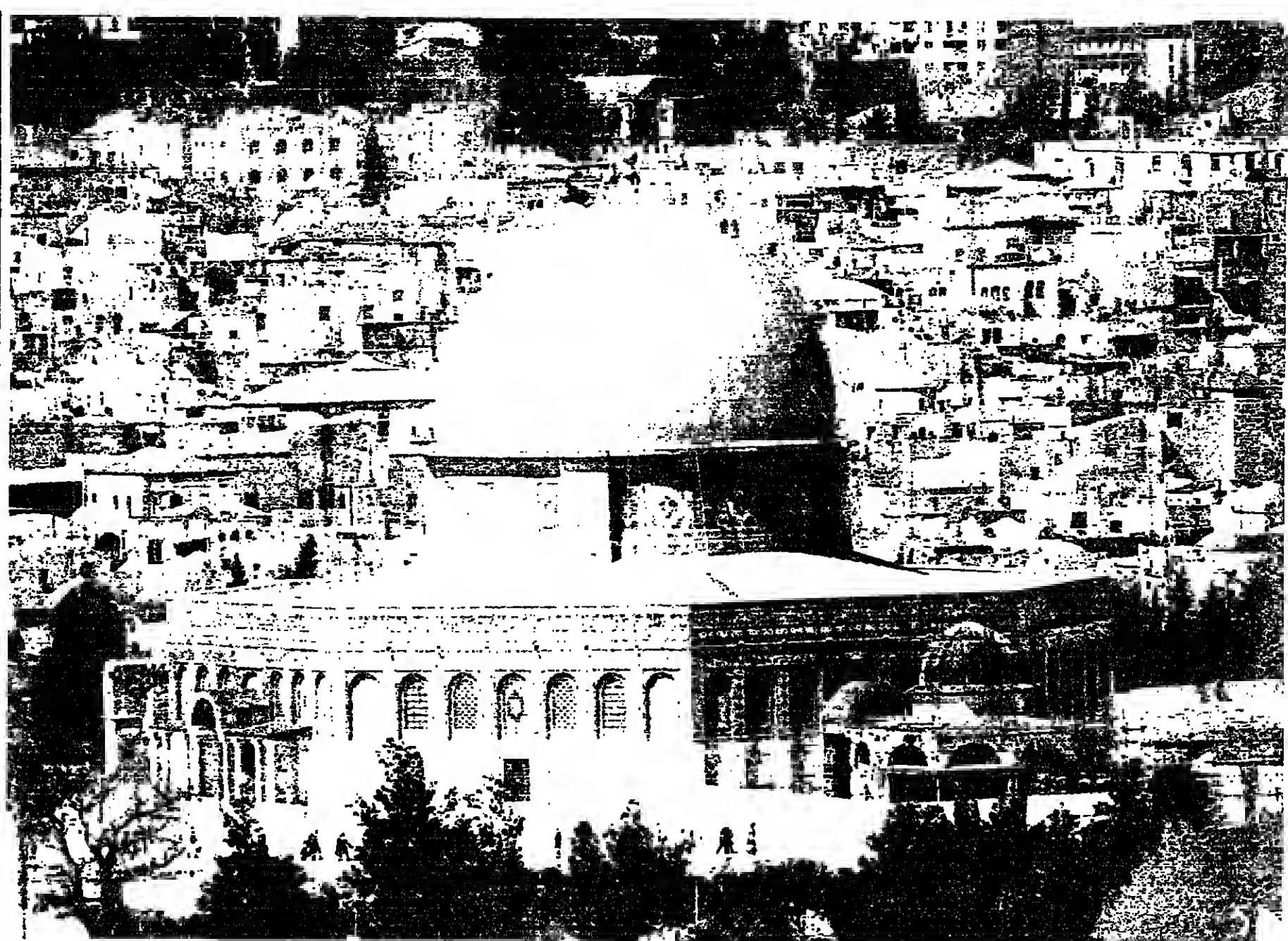
Middle East analysts said it would involve some careful diplomatic footwork — Washington suspended a dialogue with the PLO last year and has shown no inclination of wanting to revive it.

A Tunisian Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the official Tunesie agency Presse said Mr. Baker would have talks with Tunisian leaders Saturday on Middle East peace efforts.

The American embassy in Rabat said Mr. Baker was expected in Morocco later Saturday for a two-day official visit, during which he would discuss Middle East development with King Hassan.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Morocco Wednesday for talks with the King, the Moroccan News Agency (MAP) reported earlier.

It quoted Mr. Arafat as saying his visit was part of regular consultations with King Hassan in the monarch's capacity as president of the Al Quds (Jerusalem) committee.



One city, two capitals?

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

JERUSALEM — One city, two capitals.

That is the formula some Palestinians and Israeli doves hope may defuse the explosive issue of Jerusalem.

The status of the 5,000-year-old city has again emerged as a hurdle to Washington's efforts to broker an Arab-Israeli peace.

Israel's right-wing government will not sit at the negotiating table with Palestinians from Arab east Jerusalem, fearing this would undermine the Jewish state's claim to Jerusalem as its undivided and eternal capital.

Under the plan, Israel would be allowed to sell a fixed amount or value of oil. The revenues would be placed in an escrow account controlled by a special U.N. commission, and the government would not be allowed to touch any of the money.

U.N. representatives would supervise the distribution of purchased supplies.

Palestinians — Muslim and Christian alike — have been equally adamant in rejecting any concession which would jeopardise their claim to the city, site of Islam's third holiest shrine, the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, and centre of Christianity.

In the past week, however, several leading Palestinians including a senior advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat, have endorsed a model for a new Jerusalem.

Nabil Shaath, Mr. Arafat's diplomatic adviser, signed an agreement on a peace plan for the city with Israeli leftists last week at Stanford University in the United States.

"This is the first time someone associated with the PLO has signed such a proposal for Jerusalem," said Moshe Amirav, a Jerusalem city councillor who attended the Stanford conference.

The model, anathema to Israeli rightwingers and considered utopian by many leftists, allows Israel to maintain sovereignty over the whole city which would be governed by an overall municipal authority, split into two sub-municipalities, one Palestinian, one Israeli.

"We are talking about two capitals, in the same city, with free circulation and no physical barriers between the two," Mr. Shaath told a news conference in Sweden after the Stanford meeting.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem which it captured along with the

West Bank in 1967. The international community including the United States does not recognise the annexation.

With Mr. Shaath was Faisal Al Hussein, the east Jerusalem resident who is widely seen as the PLO's chief representative in the occupied territories where the organisation is outlawed. Mr. Hussein has led the Palestinian delegation in five rounds of talks with Mr. Baker in Jerusalem since March.

Mr. Hussein also backs the plan. "In the end our vision for Jerusalem is a unified one... with equal rights for everyone in the (Arab) east and (Israeli) west," Mr. Hussein told Reuters before leaving for Europe.

At the moment that vision of unity remains a dream for many Jerusalemis despite the government's assertions to foreign audiences that the city is undivided.

No signpost marks the old green line border between the Arab east and Jewish west but before the old city's Damascus Gate know not to go any farther.

The concrete and barbed wire erected when Jordan and Israel split Jerusalem at the Jewish state's creation in 1948 came down after Israeli troops fought their way through the alleys of the Arab old city to the Wailing Wall in 1967 war.

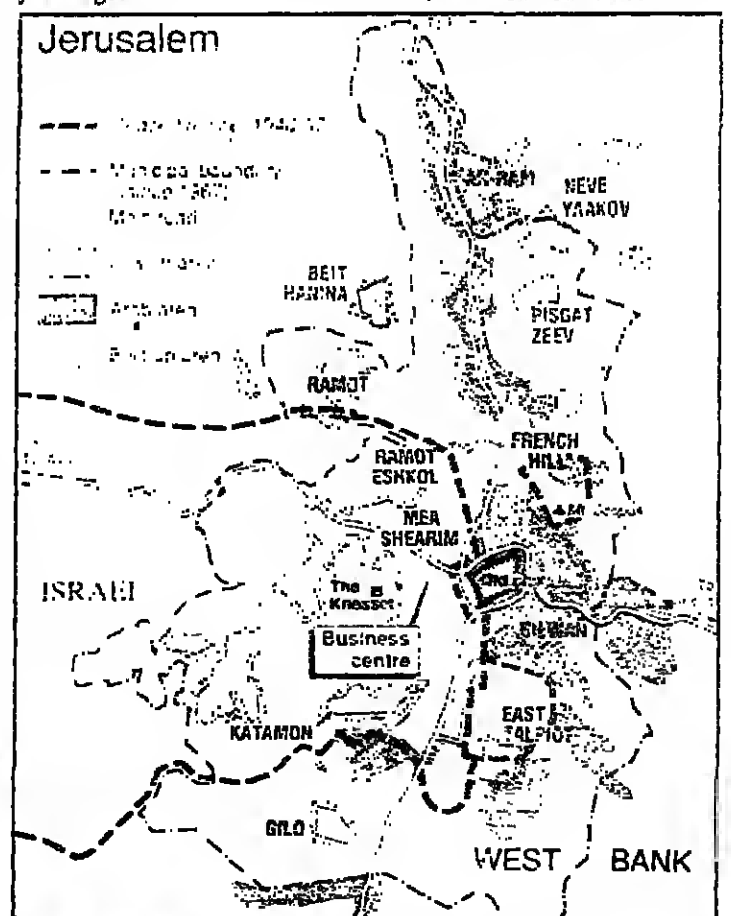
Yet the walls of suspicion and fear have never tumbled down. The only Israelis in many parts of the Arab quarters are paramilitary policemen. The handful of

Arabs who venture to the shopping streets of the Israeli side look nervous and conspicuous.

"The green line has come back and is now the line of fear," said Mr. Amirav, speaking of the Gulf that has widened since the Palestinian uprising began 3½ years ago.

Many Israelis fear being stabbed, stoned or having their cars torched if they venture across that line.

"This is not one city but two... there is no other chance for Israel but to deal with Jerusalem. It's the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Mr. Amirav said.



Little Arab response

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Musa and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy discussed the U.S. peace efforts during an hour-long meeting with Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Levy was ending an official visit two hours earlier than planned to return to Israel and report to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. At a news conference shortly before he left, he echoed Mr. Musa's optimism.

"I hope in the very coming days a continued effort will be permitted that will remove the obstacles," he said. Getting past them, he said, "is the goal of these contacts."

Mr. Levy also spoke of a new era in Israel's relations with Egypt. Their relations, never cordial despite their 1979 treaty, have deteriorated badly in recent years mainly because of strong differences over Israel's policies concerning the occupied territories.

Mr. Levy said Mr. Mubarak expressed a "determined decision" to meet with Mr. Shamir. "There's nothing that will prevent this," said Mr. Levy, although Mr. Mubarak has said repeatedly he will not meet the Israeli premier unless their summit would spur the peace process.

Israeli officials in Cairo said Mr. Levy was talking to Mr. Shamir "creative ideas" from the Egyptians for resolving the main obstacle to a conference.

Mr. Musa was asked whether they had worked out a compromise to resolve the Palestinian representation dispute.

"We are hopeful that some sort of success will be achieved and that the peace process will begin as soon as possible," he said.

Masri urges speedier moves

(Continued from page 1)

until the negotiations concerning the Palestinian dimension are over and implementation of any agreement should take place on all fronts.

Referring to the Muslim Brotherhood's attitude towards the government Mr. Masri said that he opened a dialogue with all political forces in Jordan and the government, in his view, has succeeded in presenting a correct

picture of the regional and international situation and the "pliable situation" prevailing in the Arab World. This, he said, has led the Brotherhood to be more realistic.

Mr. Masri called on Saudi Arabia to take practical and favourable response to Jordan's bid to restore normal relations. He voiced confidence that the two countries will eventually overcome their differences.

U.N. team: Iraqis forthcoming

(Continued from page 1)

A large number of the chemical weapons were for "relatively harmless" tear-gas, Mr. Ekeus said. He said inspectors also found chemical warheads for Scud missiles, but that the exact number was not known.

In addition, Mr. Ekeus said inspectors turned up 3,000 tons of deadly chemicals and precursor chemicals used to manufacture arms. Iraq had declared only 650 tons.

In another development Tuesday, France circulated a draft proposal at the Security Council that would ease the U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq to permit limited Iraqi oil sales.

There are fears that Iraq, rav-

aged by the war, faces massive hunger and disease, and revenues from the oil sales would be used to buy food and medicine.

Western diplomats at the United Nations said French representatives discussed their proposal with the other four permanent members of the Security Council — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and China.

Under the plan, Iraq would be allowed to sell a fixed amount or value of oil. The revenues would be placed in an escrow account controlled by a special U.N. commission, and the government would not be allowed to touch any of the money.

U.N. representatives would supervise the distribution of purchased supplies.

Historic agreement signed

(Continued from page 1)

tests, to cope with space-based weapons proposals and to restrict battlefield and chemical weapons.

Mr. Bush hailed the START agreement as a "monument to several generations of U.S. and Soviet negotiators, to their tireless efforts to carve out common ground from a thicket of conten-

tious issues, and it represents a major step forward for our mutual security and the cause of world peace."

The accord, to be implemented over seven years, sets an overall ceiling of 4,900 long-range ballistic missile warheads for each side and requires the Soviets to halve their stockpile of heavy ground-based SS-18 missiles from 308 to 154.

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Yugoslav league to start without Croats

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav Soccer League will start Saturday without Croatian teams who are refusing to take part because of fighting in the republic, a Yugoslav Soccer Federation (YSF) official said Wednesday. "It's their problem. The league goes on as scheduled," said Spiro Galovic, part of the YSF's eight-member presidency. Galovic said the Croatian teams now faced suspension from domestic and European competition. "It's more than likely the teams will be suspended. The suspension would probably spread to the European cups as well," he said. Two Croatian teams have qualified for Europe, Hajduk Split in the Cup Winner's Cup and Hask Gradanski Zagreb in the UEFA Cup. Hajduk have been drawn to meet either Sparkasse Stockerau of Austria or England's Tottenham Hotspur in the first round while Hask Gradanski are scheduled to play Trabzonspor of Turkey.

Lendl and wife have twin girls

NEW YORK (R) — Twin girls were born to Ivan Lendl and his wife, Samantha, Monday, a spokeswoman for the forward world number one tennis player said Tuesday. The girls Isabelle Anita and Caroline Elizabeth and their mother were doing well in hospital in Greenwich, Connecticut, where Czechoslovak-born Lendl resides. The babies are not identical twins. No other information was released. The Lendls, who were married in September 1989, also have a 14-month-old daughter Marika. Lendl, 31, has won the French Open and U.S. Open three times each and the Australian Open twice. Last week he lost in the Canadian Open semifinals.

English FA to increase drug tests

LONDON (R) — The English Football Association (FA) issued a pre-season warning to clubs Tuesday saying that they intended to step up random dope testing. "We do not consider we have a drugs problem in our sport when compared to some others but the message to all clubs and players is now clear," FA spokesman David Bloomfield said. "We don't want drugs in football and we have the power to impose penalties on people found guilty," he said. In June the FA decided to introduce legislation "specifically prohibiting the taking of banned drugs" by players. It said: "With immediate effect drug tests will be compulsory and any player testing positive will be charged under FA rules." On Tuesday they sent all 93 league clubs a list of some 500 banned substances, including many everyday medicines. They also issued a list of "safe" common medications.

Briton appointed S. African manager

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa, getting ready to return to international competition, appointed Briton Geoff Butler manager of the national soccer team on Tuesday. Butler, 50, currently manages top-of-the-league Iwisa Kaizer Chiefs, based in Soweto township outside Johannesburg. A former player for English League club Notts County, Butler has previously coached in Zambia, Egypt, Kenya and Cyprus. He came to work in South Africa in 1989. Soccer, followed mostly by blacks in South Africa, has been racially integrated on the field for several years.

FA to set up new super league

LONDON (R) — A legal ruling Wednesday cleared the way for the English Football Association (FA) to set up a breakaway soccer "super league." The high court dismissed an application by the Football League, which currently runs the 93-club league structure in England, to have FA plans to lure away leading clubs ruled unlawful. "I think virtually all obstacles have been removed in the judgement today. I would say the Premier League is now certain for the season after next," said FA chief executive Graham Kelly.

Richardson joins Aston Villa

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Midfielder Kevin Richardson joined Aston Villa Tuesday in a £450,000 (\$756,000) transfer from Real Sociedad of the Spanish league. Richardson, 28, who spent just one season in Spain, signed a three-year contract with Aston Villa. "I enjoyed the time that I spent in Spain, but when a new manager was appointed at Sociedad it was suggested that I could return to England and I am now looking forward to the challenge at Villa," he said.

Equine flu breaks out in U.K. stables

LONDON (R) — An outbreak of equine flu has hit racing stables in Britain. Geoff Lewis's Epsom Yard is among those affected and the stable's two declarations for Goodwood Wednesday will now not run. Earlier in the day, the Animal Health Trust announced that equine flu had been confirmed in three more Newmarket stables. Luca Cumani said 20 of his team were suffering from the outbreak.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Michael Chang

Chang defeats Pernfors at Los Angeles tournament

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — No. 3 seed Michael Chang survived two match points and held on to defeat Mikael Pernfors of Sweden 6-0, 6-1, 7-6 (7-0) Tuesday in the first round of the Volvo Tennis Tournament.

Second-seeded Pete Sampras had an easier time, beating Gillad Bloom 6-0, 6-2. Amos Mansdorf the No. 8 seed, beat Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden 6-4, 6-3.

Chang won the first game of the first set at love but his unforced errors gave Pernfors the next games. Chang held service to win a second game but Pernfors served it out for the set. Chang dominated the second set and jumped to a 2-0 lead in the third set only to have Pernfors go ahead 4-3.

Down 5-4 with Pernfors serving, Chang stayed in the match when the Swede went long with a lob and then netted a backhand.

The tiebreaker was all Chang's who clinched the match with a forehand.

Weather fouls record bids at Europe's highest track

SESTRIERE, Italy (AP) — Adverse weather conditions foiled record attempts by Carl Lewis, Leroy Burrell and others Wednesday at Europe's highest track.

But it didn't stop Germany's Heike Drescher, who leaped 7.37 metres (24 feet, 2 1/4 inches) for the world best performance of the year in the women's long jump.

American sprinters Burrell and Michael Johnson dominated the 100- and 200-metres races, but their times fell far short of the marks as rain, wind and cold annulled the potential advantages of competing more than 1,800 metres (6,000 feet) above sea level.

Burrell, who set a world record of 9.90 seconds last month, was timed in 10.30. Fellow American Dennis Mitchell was second in 10.40.

Johnson took the 200 metres in 20.50. Two other Americans, Danny Everett and Mike Marsh, were second and third in 20.73 and 20.88.

Soviet pole vaulter Sergei Bubka, one of the favourites to pocket a prize of \$40,000 and a Ferrari Testarossa car offered by organisers to the athlete setting a world record here, retired after clearing 5.60 metres (18-4 1/2).

Seles defeats Shriver in Mazda Tennis Classic

CARLSBAD, California (Agencies) — Top-ranked Monica Seles made a forceful return to women's tennis Tuesday night, beating Pam Shriver 6-2, 6-2 in the second round of the \$225,000 Mazda Classic.

Seles, who had competed only in an exhibition tournament since bypassing Wimbledon because of a sore leg, committed only one unforced error in taking the first five games against Shriver.

The 17-year-old Yugoslav, who drew a first-round bye, countered the net play of Shriver with crisp passing shots, showing no signs of rustiness.

Tour officials confirmed Tuesday that Seles needs to win the tournament in order to retain the No. 1 ranking she has held since March 11.

Seles missed Wimbledon because of shin splints and a stress fracture in her left leg. She then played in an exhibition event at Mahwah, New Jersey, losing in the championship to Jennifer Capriati, but skipped the Federation Cup last week to rest her leg for this tourney.

Lori McNeil overcame early mistakes to beat Naoko Sawamatsu 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 in a match between two top 20 players.

There were also two mild upset victories as Karine Quentrec outlasted Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, and qualifier Kimberly Po topped Peanut Louie Harper 6-3, 6-3.

McNeil, ranked 24th, sought to charge the net from the start but made several mistakes on volleys and proved susceptible to Sawamatsu's passing shots.

In the second set, though, McNeil established control by winning all but one point in the first three games. She forced the play with three service winners and seven strong placement shots during that span.

"I had my strategy. I just kind of rushed through it in the second set," McNeil said. "I was missing my shots, but then I just settled down in the second set."

Quentrec, ranked 73rd, of France, rebounded from her second set loss by jumping to a 3-1 lead in the third set. Each player then held service over the remainder of the 3-hour match.

"Sometimes my serve is good, and sometimes it's bad," Quentrec said. "But my game is not my serve. It's my head and my legs."

In the second set, Kohde-Kilsch held a 5-4 lead and had a break point to win the set, but Quentrec responded with three straight winners.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 2, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have the self-control and the caution that keeps you from getting head over heels in trouble now so make it a special point to do nothing that will get others angry with you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get some new ideas how you can get your projects done more easily so you can focus upon those other interests that also mean a great deal to you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are now able to find out what others expect of you and to put into motion some plan of action that can bring you the good will of partners.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is your day to forget your worries and your cares and to put into motion some plan of action that can gain you the good will of charming contacts.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A day to look to members of your family to find out first what they would like you to do and then go along with them in such arrangements.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get off and away to see close companions in all walks of life whether related to them or not and you are able to gain confidence from them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are now able to see and understand better how to increase your financial security without having to put out money to do so and a businessman helps.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take account of what you owe

and what your responsibilities are to and from others and devise a more exact and understanding way to get along with others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to think out what you want and to be just as subjective as you like in letting those about know and be aware of your desires.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is the time for you to think out a whole new way that you can produce results of a highly successful nature far the benefit of close companions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find you can have one of your happiest days with both friends and acquaintances and you can deepen the interest acquaintances have in you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day to do those things that will get you in a better position with prominent persons in the world of action as well as your family.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your day to get off to new fields of activity and find ways to make these new conditions fit more effectively in your everyday dealings.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take account of what you owe

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Put into motion whatever plan is required and most vital to your success and establish a new cornerstone of stability that will carry you over future rough periods. Drive carefully.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Private limitations and anxieties can cause you to have a pretty befuddled understanding of what is going on about you unless you listen to your intuitions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have a friend who can really confuse and upset you so stick to your own standpoints and await a better day before consulting with friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Do nothing that can in any way interfere with your reputation and good name and make a point to back up on it and in which your close companions can join with you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Let those with whom you have any sort of obligations of a very fundamental nature, such as family know you want to do what they would like.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make a special point to keep your purse zipped or you can lose some papers that are important to you and be unable to render when required.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some new interest in building up instead of spending your money as you are now tempted to do and you will be able to gain the good will of experienced businessmen.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think out the right means by which to gain your objectives without coming right out and telling others what you do have in mind or any project.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You want to tell off that associate who is not doing at all

what you desire but its not the day to lose a partner which is what could occur.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able to find the specific outlets that do require much work on your part to make them operative on an highly efficient basis you like.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think out a course that can bring you much pleasure without spending more than you can afford on it and in which your close companions can join with you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Let those with whom you have any sort of obligations of a very fundamental nature, such as family know you want to do what they would like.

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VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You want to tell off that associate who is not doing at all

what you desire but its not the day to lose a partner which is what could occur.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able to find the specific outlets that do require much work on your part to make them operative on an highly efficient basis you like.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think out a course that can bring you much pleasure without spending more than you can afford on it and in which your close companions can join with you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Let those with whom you have any sort of obligations of a very fundamental nature, such as family know you want to do what they would like.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make a special point to keep your purse zipped or you can lose some papers that are important to you and be unable to render when required.

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Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Mar. 30/1991	Mar. 31/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6750	1.6835
Deutsche Mark	1.7553	1.7563
Swiss Franc	1.5325	1.5353
French Franc	5.9685	5.9566
Japanese Yen	137.96	137.83
European Currency Unit	1.1696	1.1764

USD per JOD: 1.000000
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.93	6.18	6.50
Sterling Pound	10.67	10.93	10.61	10.75
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.75	9.37	9.51
Swiss Franc	7.75	7.81	7.87	7.75
French Franc	9.56	9.56	9.62	9.62
Japanese Yen	7.31	7.34	7.32	7.32
European Currency Unit	9.81	10.02	10.17	10.17

Interbank bid rates for currencies trading 1/2% (U.S. Dollar 1.000000 or equivalent)

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	365.45	6.95	Silver	4.07	.385

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.687	.697
Sterling Pound	1.1552	1.1608
Deutsche Mark	.5833	.5933
Swiss Franc	.4522	.4575
French Franc	.1159	.1167
Japanese Yen	.4943	.5008
Dutch Guilder	.3434	.3501
Swedish Krona	.1664	.1689
Italian Lira	.0372	.0389
Belgian Franc	.0192	.01912

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7560	1.7550
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0790
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1660	.1665
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1865
Greek Drachma	.3560	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

CAS Indexes for Amman Financial Market

Index	29/7/1991 Close	30/7/1991 Close
All-Share	109.36	109.54
Banking Sector	103.79	104.39
Insurance Sector	119.10	119.10
Industry Sector	115.09	115.10
Services Sector	127.25	127.62

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6840/50	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1525/30	Canadian dollar
	1.7448/49	Deutsche marks
	1.9657/67	Dutch guilders
	1.5223/30	Swiss francs
	35.97/36.01	Belgian francs
	5.9330/80	French francs
	1303/1304	Italian lire
	137.70/80	Japanese yen
	6.3270/20	Swedish crowns
	6.8130/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.7530/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	364.00/364.40	U.S. dollars

Decision on BCCI fate in Jordan may come today

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The decision by a British court Tuesday to postpone a possible liquidation of the scandal-plagued and financially ill Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) is not likely to have any impact on the options available to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to decide the fate of the three BCCI branches in Jordan, banking officials said Wednesday.

The officials said they expected a meeting today (Thursday) between the Jordanian authorities and other involved parties to come up with a final decision on the fate of BCCI's operations and future in Jordan.

"It is an almost foregone conclusion that BCCI could not be resurrected from its troubles on the international level and put back on track as it was," said a senior banking executive.

According to the executive, who preferred not to be named, the agreement by the Abu Dhabi majority shareholders of the bank to pump in \$85 million to depositors and employees in Britain "does not change anything as far as the Jordanian operations of the bank are concerned."

Tuesday's British court decision was based on the agreement by the majority shareholders.

"There is no close estimate of how much is the international loss of BCCI," said the executive. "It is illogical to expect anyone to pump in billions of dollars and salvage the bank, particularly after so much has happened."

"One could only prolong the death throes of BCCI," he commented.

The executive was referring to the wave of scandals and charges that has hit BCCI, crowned by this week's indictment by a New York grand jury of the Pakistani founder and a former senior official of the bank and moves by the Federal Reserve — the U.S. central bank — to seek \$200 million in fines and a ban on nine serving and former BCCI officials from involvement in any American banking operations.

BCCI has been accused of running front operations for drug barons, arms dealers and extremist groups as well as facilitating clandestine Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) financial deals.

Estimates of the international loss of BCCI range between \$4 billion and \$10 billion, but "even the highest estimate could be conservative," commented an economic analyst.

The Bank of England and other European monetary authorities seized all assets and suspended all operations of BCCI on July 6. The Central Bank of Jordan, which apparently was expecting trouble at BCCI, followed swiftly to take over the three branches of BCCI in the Kingdom and appoint a supervisory committee.

Depositors and clients of BCCI Jordan do not stand to suffer any significant loss since the CBJ had managed to secure almost all local deposits with BCCI in foreign currency under an order issued in April this year.

In addition, banking experts say, BCCI Jordan has enough assets to cover deposits and other liabilities.

Outstanding dues to the bank in overdraft and loan facilities are around JD 21 million, but they are supported by "strong collateral assets and firm guarantees," according to BCCI Regional Manager Fakhri Bilbeisi.

The CBJ permitted limited withdrawals from local BCCI accounts, and depositors and clients have already withdrawn close to JD 15 million from their accounts, estimated at JD 29 million in foreign currency and JD 36 million in local currency.

A decision on BCCI Jordan is expected to be taken, if not immediately announced, Thursday at a meeting of central bank and BCCI representatives, auditors and banking experts as well as the supervisory committee appointed by the CBJ.

The meeting will "review everything related to BCCI in light of the international developments," said an informed official.

"A decision is expected at the meeting, whether the central bank will revoke the license of BCCI, sell the bank to any other Jordanian bank as a merger or accept a proposal to float a new entity to assume control of BCCI," the official added.

"However, the international developments will have little bearing on the options available to the CBJ since Jordanian regulations stipulate that all banking institutions operating in the Kingdom, regardless of ownership, are governed by Jordanian banking laws," the official noted.

"Next week is the final week for BCCI in its present form in Jordan," he added.

Both men have been equally tough in assessing where government economic policies have gone wrong and in their criticism of wage policies in both east and west Germany.

Analysts say any changes will be of style, not content.

They are sure that under Mr. Schlesinger's leadership the Bundesbank will force up interest rates, either at its first policy-making council meeting after the summer holiday on Aug. 15 or shortly thereafter.

Many analysts in Germany say this would not plunge Germany into recession, despite the current slowdown in western Germany, but it would take some steam out of consumer purchases and give a signal to wage negotiators.

"The Bundesbank should be able to achieve that aim without stalling investments," Mr. Reid said.

Mr. Schlesinger faces a similar task to the one Mr. Poehl confronted a decade ago. In the early 1980s, Germany had rising inflation after the second oil crisis and was paying the inflationary price of a failed bid to haul the world out of recession.

Ten years on, prices are being driven higher by what Mr. Schlesinger calls aggressive wage policies and huge increases in taxes on petrol and other levies to pay for German unification.

A budget deficit of about five per cent of gross national product reflects west German transfers to the east of more than 150 billion marks (\$86 billion) this year.

Low demand for German goods due to recession abroad and a huge demand for Western goods from east Germany led to a balance of payments current account deficit of more than 15 billion marks (\$8.6 billion) in the first five months of 1991.

Mr. Schlesinger, deputy bank president since 1980, replaces Karl Otto Poehl, who retired early after 11 years in charge.

He will hold the office until 1993 and is expected to be succeeded by his new deputy, Hans Tietmeyer.

Mr. Schlesinger's slightly nervous, academic air and dogmatic anti-inflationary bias have led to frequent contrasts with Mr. Poehl, an apparently more easy-going internationalist.

It is vital for the mark and for financing east Germany that the Bundesbank firmly put its full weight behind policies of stability," said Richard Reid, Frankfurt economist at brokers UBS-Phillips and Drew.

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Top Croat boycotts crisis talks as Yugoslav fighting continues

BELGRADE (R) — The president of Yugoslavia's rebel Republic of Croatia boycotted a fresh round of crisis talks Wednesday, accusing leaders of other republics of failing to cooperate in halting ethnic violence.

"There's no constructive atmosphere at these talks," said a spokesman for Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. "The decisions yesterday show they don't really intend to cooperate in finding a solution."

The near breakdown of the talks followed army jets firing rockets at a Croatian village Tuesday and heavy artillery battles. Five people were killed, bringing the death toll to more than 100 this month.

With peace efforts on the brink of collapse, European Community (EC) officials are due Wednesday to try to promote a

truce between the Croats and Serbs.

A team of senior EC diplomats will try to pave the way for three EC foreign ministers to arrive on Friday, hoping to sign a ceasefire among the feuding factions at the weekend.

Sporadic fighting continued with grenades and machineguns Wednesday, pitting Croatia's Roman Catholic majority against a Serbian Orthodox minority in a region 50 kilometres south of the Croatian capital of Zagreb.

Serbian guerrillas have been trying to drive out the Croat population in towns and villages in the region around Glin and Kostajnica.

Mr. Tudjman, who also boycotted a crisis meeting of the eight-member state presidency Tuesday, called an urgent meeting of the Supreme Council of

Croatia for Wednesday, his spokesman said.

Croatia, the second largest republic with about 4.5 million people, triggered the latest violence on June 25, the day it and neighbouring Slovenia declared independence from Yugoslavia.

Stipe Mesic, the Croatian representative on the presidency, which groups all eight republics and provinces, stormed out on Tuesday, saying "for me it would be completely suicidal" to support their decisions.

He told reporters he walked out because Serbia, the largest republic with 8.5 million people, was trying to stop the EC from getting involved in the Yugoslav crisis.

Mr. Mesic, head of the rotating presidency, was expected to return when the meeting resumed later Wednesday, his office said.

But the absence of Mr. Tudjman, the main political figure in Croatia, was expected to largely undermine the presidency's ability to take decisions.

The divided presidency, ostensibly the top ruling body, has been struggling to stop violence between Croats and Serbs which threatens to ignite a civil war in the turbulent Balkan country of 23.5 million people. Its ceasefire calls have been ignored.

The EC stepped in July 7 to broker a ceasefire between the Yugoslav army and the country's other rebel republic, Slovenia, after 64 people were killed and hundreds wounded.

The army stormed Slovenia, the most economically-developed and northern republic — bordering Italy, Austria and Hungary — after it joined Croatia in declaring independence in June.

7 killed in raid on Lithuanian post

MOSCOW (AP) — Armed assailants killed seven Lithuanian guards and wounded another early Wednesday in the bloodiest attack yet on a border post run by the Lithuanian Republic's secessionist government, officials said.

Lithuanian officials said they did not know who was responsible for the attack on the post near the town of Medininkai at the Byelorussian border.

But suspicion fell on hardline elements seeking to discredit President Mikhail Gorbachev, who has been making major concessions to the country's independence-minded republics.

The attack threatened to cast a shadow over the second day of the U.S.-Soviet summit during which U.S. President George Bush urged Mr. Gorbachev to

"find a way to extend freedom to the Baltic peoples."

"Every time that Gorbachev has reached out the West in some way, either when he went to the Nobel Prize or to London for the (economic summit), it seems there is something that happens in Lithuania," said Darius Sitas, an aide to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis.

There was no immediate reaction from Bush officials in Moscow.

An explosion also rocked a Soviet Interior Ministry barracks next to an army base in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius at 2:50 a.m. (2:30 GMT), said Lithuanian journalist Rolandas Barysas.

The explosion blew out all windows in the four-storey building

and shattered windows in nearby homes, but no one was injured, he said.

It was not known whether the incidents were related, he said in a telephone interview from Vilnius.

The barracks can house about 1,000 soldiers, but it was not known how many were in the building or whether weapons also were stored there, said Lithuania and Byelorussia, Barysas said.

Mr. Barysas said investigators believe the attack on the customs post near the town of Medininkai occurred sometime after 2 a.m. (2:30 GMT Tuesday) when the last vehicle was checked by the border post.

All eight men on duty were shot, he said.

Madagascar opposition rejects compromise

PARIS (R) — A leader of Madagascar's opposition said on French radio Wednesday the time for compromise with President Didier Ratsiraka had passed and that it would step up its campaign to topple him.

"We are going to toughen our position. The people don't want to compromise any more. They decided to go all the way," said Albert Jafy, named "prime minister" in a shadow government announced by the opposition earlier this month.

His Active Forces Coalition,

campaigning for political reforms, has rejected concessions made by Mr. Ratsiraka and said it was waiting for him to resign as president of the Indian Ocean island.

"Again and again we've demanded that he leave. We don't want him here anymore," said Mr. Jafy, who was released with five other opposition leaders Tuesday as part of Mr. Ratsiraka's concessions.

"He doesn't want to negotiate. He is trying to buy time. The only thing he is worried about is how

to stay in power," he said.

Mr. Jafy said the opposition would not accept new elections as proposed by Mr. Ratsiraka, fearing they would be fraudulent and lead to repression by government troops.

"Everybody wants free elections, but not under Mr. Ratsiraka's control, under international control," Mr. Jafy said.

He said the opposition rejected a compromise solution under which Mr. Ratsiraka would be a figurehead during a transition period.

Africans begin shedding despotic rule through democratic conferences

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — African peasants, tradesmen, farmers, lawyers, opposition politicians — people from all walks of life — are confronting dictators at revolutionary national conferences to demand multiparty democracy.

"We are going to attend a national conference that is nothing less than a civilian coup d'etat," said Professor Ali Saliou, one of the organisers of a meeting that opened Monday in Niger.

Another conference opened Monday in Mali. Zaire is scheduled to begin one Wednesday, and another is in progress in Togo.

The conferences, studies in sometimes raucous participatory democracy, have already ousted several entrenched despots and provide much-needed catharsis.

The Congo's 105-day conference that ended in June was described by its chairman, Monsignor Ernest Nkomo, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Brazzaville, as "a collective session of socio-public psychoanalysis."

When that conference ended, delegates dipped their hands in a reflecting pool outside the hall to show that the country's past had been cleansed, clearing the way for reconciliation.

Once a continent dominated by one-party states mostly ruled by dictators, Africa is in the throes of profound political change comparable to Latin America's shift from military rule to democracy in the 1980s, and Eastern Europe's series of anti-Communist revolutions in 1989-90.

Sixteen one-party states among Africa's 49 sub-Saharan nations have legalised opposition parties in response to democracy movements, and three Marxist governments were unseated by the ballot box.

In June, a conference in Brazzaville stripped Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of everything but his title.

Mr. Sassou-Nguesso, under whose leadership Congo had installed one of the most Marxist-Leninist governments in Africa,

heard delegates accuse him of crimes ranging from assassinations to responsibility for the September 1989 terrorist bombing of a UTA commercial airliner.

One Congo conference delegate looked directly at Mr. Sassou-Nguesso and said the president should have done the honourable thing and killed himself.

The stage for the Congo conference was set when the people of Togo's eastern neighbour, Benin, forced President Mathieu Kerekou to turn over power to an interim government headed by Nicéphore Soglo. Mr. Soglo defeated Mr. Kerekou in presidential elections in March, the first time an African president had been deposed by ballot.

Benin's transition began with a national conference.

Clearly, the revolts of Eastern European countries and the end of East-West rivalry stirred many Africans.

The end of the cold war "made it possible for the West to look at Africa for the first time without the geopolitical blinkers of the previous decade, and the halt to the flow of arms from the Communist Bloc to Marxist states in Africa has provided a chance for possible change in Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia," said exiled Kenyan editor Perer Karienthi, who fled his homeland and job at the Financial Times in 1989 to escape arrest.

One-party rule is often justified as necessary to unite countries in which different ethnic groups live. Colonial officials paid scant attention to tribal territories and disputes when carving up the continent into nations.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, echoing a common theme of one-party presidents, has said: "Until our society has become cohesive enough so that tribalism is of no significance in the economic and political activities of the nation, the strategy of a mass-based, democratic and accountable one-party system is the best in our nation-building activities."

In many countries, students led the charge toward democracy, but the real pressure came when

government employees — who make up the vast majority of the middle class — joined the struggle.

Western aid donors added to the pressure by tying assistance to political reform.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have acknowledged that austerity programmes they required have resulted in lower standards of living in many countries.

These measures made governments unpopular with the middle class, and when they failed, in most cases, to revive economies, strikes began. Some governments were virtually shut down. Soon the demonstrations became protests against one-party rule.

Despots who cling to power are left with increasingly stark choices.

Two leaders who refused to heed the calls have fallen in the past year: Liberian President Samuel Doe, who was tortured to death; and Gen. Moussa Traore of Mali, disgraced, imprisoned and facing charges that under his regime carried the death penalty.

Curiously, most former British colonies have not caught the fever for democratisation spreading among their French counterparts. So far, Zambia is the only former one-party government from the former British empire to legalise opposition parties and schedule elections. Zaire, another former British colony, is due to open a conference Wednesday.

Some scholars speculate that the French colonial heritage partly explains this. France eagerly sent Africans to France to study, where, in addition to learning professional skills, they absorbed lessons about democracy and human rights.

Indeed, the first national conference, in Benin, was held at France's suggestion.

Archbishop Isidore De Souza, the chairman, compared it to the constituent assembly meetings held in revolutionary France during the 18th century.

Other conferences have been held in French-speaking Gabon and Congo, and the former Italian-ruled Ethiopia.

Pentagon announces deep military cuts abroad

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. military will withdraw troops from another 79 European bases, most of them in Germany, and will abandon one-third of America's 1,600 overseas defence facilities by the end of 1995, the Defence Department said Tuesday.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney's decision to make further deep overseas cuts was in response to budget pressures and the easing of East-West tensions, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said.

The Pentagon informed Congress it will end operations at 38 sites in Germany, 13 in Britain, eight in Italy, seven in Turkey, five in Spain and one in the Netherlands by the end of 1995. U.S. presence will be reduced at an additional seven sites in Germany.

"We simply don't need as many forces in Europe with the dramatic changes," Mr. Williams told reporters in announcing that U.S. troop strength in Europe will be slashed from a current 300,000 to 150,000 over five years.

He also said about one-third of all 1,600 overseas military facilities large and small would be cut by the end of 1995. He declined to be specific, but defence officials said 651 U.S. sites will be abandoned or sharply reduced.

Mr. Williams said the latest round of European cuts would affect 11,000 U.S. military personnel and 1,500 American civilian workers at the bases.

Since early last year, the United States has announced that it will withdraw from or reduce forces at 314 European bases.

Tuesday's announcement was the latest step in a U.S. plan to cut its two million-member armed forces to 1.6 million over five years.

Congress is now in the process of approving President George Bush's recommendation to close 34 military bases inside the United States and reduce operations at 48 others by 1997.



Jeffrey Dahmer is led into a Milwaukee court to be charged with murder.

Human bones found near U.S. killer's boyhood home

BATH, Ohio (AP) — Investigators have found more than 50 pieces of bone near Jeffrey Dahmer's boyhood home as they searched for remains of a man who may have been his first victim.

In Milwaukee, police said Mr. Dahmer now has confessed to 17 slayings.

The bone pieces were found as investigators raked debris from the ground on the first day of their search of the property in suburban Akron, said Summit County Coroner William A. Cox.

He said as many as 70 per cent of the bones were human, and some appeared to be skull fragments.

"We may very well be able to put together who those bones belong to," Mr. Cox said at a news conference.

Mr. Dahmer told authorities that Steven Mark Hicks was hitchhiking to a rock concert in 1978 when he accepted a ride to the house. There, Mr. Dahmer strangled Mr. Hicks with a barbell and dismembered him, authorities said.

Mr. Dahmer said he buried and dug up Mr. Hicks' remains several times, ultimately scraping the flesh off, smashing the bones to bits with a hammer and scattering them in a ravine between his parents' land and two other properties. He drew authorities a map of the heavily wooded, 1.7-acre property.

Court records say Mr. Dahmer confessed that he lured men to his

Milwaukee apartment to take nude photos, drugged them and strangled them. He took pictures of the victims in various stages of mutilation and boiled some of their skulls, authorities said.

He had sex with some victims, including one after death, and told police he kept one victim's heart in a freezer to eat later, court records say.

Mr. Dahmer apparently didn't have accomplices, Milwaukee Police Lt. Vincent Vitale said Tuesday. He added that no pattern of cannibalism exists. "It wasn't every person he killed since 1978 he was consuming," Lt. Vitale said.

Capt. Domagalski declined to release details about Mr. Thomas' death.

West Allis Police Chief John Butorak said Guerrero was a man Mr. Dahmer admitted killing while living with his grandmother in West Allis, a suburb southwest of Milwaukee.

Police believe three victims were killed at the grandmother's house but remains of only one victim were found. Capt. Butorak said police doubt the two bodies are at the grandmother's house or that the grandmother knew about the killings.

"She's not involved in the investigation. She's an 87-year-old lady going through a very hard time," Capt. Butorak said.

Summit County Sheriff David Troutman said the bone pieces were found where Mr. Dahmer told authorities they would be.

Pacific states to hold talks with Taiwan

KOLONIA, Pohnpei (R) — South Pacific leaders holding their annual summit have decided to risk China's anger and hold talks with Nationalist Taiwan, officials said Wednesday.

Fiji Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said Tuesday that the 15-nation South Pacific Forum, which includes Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, had decided in principle to hold a dialogue with Taiwan.

He said it was unfair for Peking to demand that other nations cut their links with Taipei while Chi-

na itself had an active trading programme with Taiwanese businessmen through Hong Kong.

"I think we are able to see through the hypocrisy of a one-China policy," said Sir Kamisese Mara spokesman for the 22nd summit meeting of the South Pacific Forum on the remote island of Pohnpei, 3,000 kilometres southeast of Tokyo.

The forum secretariat would explore ways to hold talks with Taiwan, he said. It was not clear when the talks would be held and in what form.

Australia to scrap colonial legacy and integrate

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's politicians have decided to scrap laws that have kept its six states virtually separate nations despite their formal integration 90 years ago.

As a first step, the federal government and premiers of the states and two territories agreed at a meeting Tuesday to form national road, rail and electrical power bodies to integrate existing systems into compatible networks.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, presiding over the meeting, told reporters the agreement would produce "a significant increase in the economic performance of Australia."

He said greater efficiency would save Australia billions of dollars annually and compared the move to the integration of countries of the European Community (EC).

Australia's separate state rail authorities jointly lose some 380 million dollars (\$290 million) annually.

The agreement marks the first concerted attempt at full economic integration of the vast nation since it broke from Britain to become a federation of states in 1901 ruled by a federal government.

The politicians agreed to establish uniform standards on goods, services and regulations which now hamper commercial and other links.

Australia has a strange colonial legacy of anomalies. Sausages have differing content regulations, preventing their sale in some states but not in others. Manufacturers must put different labels and packaging on the same product if they are sold across state lines.

There are three definitions of bread.

One state demands that margarine is sold only in a cube-shaped package.

Schools have varying minimum starting ages.

Electricians, plumbers, doctors and lawyers need licences to work outside their home states.

Three of the separate public rail authorities operated by state governments have differing gages and regulations.

A rail cargo container sent from Sydney to Perth is subject to four changes of locomotive, five safe working systems, six sizes of loading gauge and has to spend 12 hours at sidings for crew changes and inspections.

COLUMN

Electronic warfare at Moscow summit

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. officials suspect Soviet intelligence may be waging electronic warfare at the Moscow summit by jamming the small two-way radios used by White House aides and Secret Service bodyguards. "Our radios are not working and we can't figure out why," an official said. "The signal is coded and we think they may be testing their equipment to intercept the transmissions," the official added. The radios, worn on the belt and equipped with a hand microphone and earpiece, are used by President George Bush's aides and Secret Service agents for internal communications and controlling motorcade movements.

Opera fans brave rain to hear Pavarotti sing

LONDON (R) — Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti's powerful voice rang across London's Hyde Park Tuesday night where an estimated 125,000 fans braved driving rain for a free concert marking the 30th anniversary of his career.

It was Britain's biggest open-air concert by a solo artist although the downpour dashed organisers' hopes of drawing 250,000 people to hear that Pavarotti had promised would be the best performance of his life. As if on cue, a slight drizzle turned into a shower, drumming on the sea of umbrellas which went up just as the 82-member philharmonia orchestra struck the first note. But the umbrellas came down as the burly tenor, clutching his trademark white handkerchief, appeared on the Greek-style stage. Even Britain's Prince and Princess of Wales, who celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary Monday, were drenched by the end of the two-hour performance. Prince Charles appeared glum, with a towel around his neck. The usually well-groomed Princess Diana was soaked and her hair was flattened. She was rewarded when the man with one of the world's best known voices dedicated an aria to one of his most famous faces. "The title of this aria means 'I have never seen a lady like that' and with your permission I would like to dedicate it to Lady Diana," he said before launching into an aria from Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. The applause was deafening.

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